

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL
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.

In 2020 the Programme structures and beneficiaries have been affected by the COVID19 pandemic. The Programme structures implemented actions to reduce the COVID19 impact and to ensure a smooth implementation of the projects. Nevertheless, except for some individual projects, the activities have not been suspended or interrupted and the implementation has progressed as planned.

The absorption target for 2020 (ERDF 34,071,419.61 €) has been overreached by 32,262,578.83 €. This also means that part of the absorption target set for 2021 has been already secured (ERDF 32,262,578.83 €, out of € 37,039,749.74 representing the target for 2021).

The progress made by the Programme towards its targets is consistent and capable to ensure the fulfilment of its goals. The fact that the launching of the calls, assessment, selection and contracting followed a fast schedule has ensured a good perspective for its implementation and closure, as the majority of the projects were finalized by 2020, with a minimum number of projects remaining under implementation in the next years. No dedicated calls for fighting COVID19 were launched as all the programme funds were already allocated. However, projects were encouraged to support actions against pandemic and in this regard, they used the facilities and equipment financed by the programme in order to support the public healthcare system to better deal with the pandemic. For example, Zimnicea City Hospital, Romania put at the disposal of a COVID19 support hospital, 2 injectomates, 3 vital function monitors and 1 general anaesthesia device, equipment which was purchased through the project RoBg174. The Cardiology Clinic from the County Emergency Hospital Craiova, Romania, financed within project RoBg160, has been used as a triage centre for COVID19 patients.

As the assessment and the selection process of the projects had been finalized even since 2018, the focus of the Programme was on contracting and mainly on implementation. The last 4 projects were contracted in 2020, all of them from the reserve list. There was no available financial allocation for these 4 projects at the selection moment. Their contracting in 2020 is in line with the MC decision regarding the over-contracting process at Programme level and with the rule to limit the number of projects under implementation for one beneficiary to maximum 4.

At the end of 2020, 172 projects were contracted with a total value of 275.03 mil €, out of which 3 were terminated from different reasons. Concluding, at this moment 169 projects are covered by contracts (ongoing or finalized projects). Also, 19 projects, with a total budget of 31.85 mil € remained on the reserve list, with no financial allocation available and limited perspective to be contracted within the current financial exercise.

In terms of project implementation, the Programme has made important progress, 62.13% (105 finalized projects out of the total 169 projects) of the total contracted projects being completed and producing results that contribute to the development of the cross-border area.

The impact of COVID19 restrictions had an effect on the implementation process, as the finalized number of projects is lower than expected for 2020. Thus, 4 projects suspended their implementation for a clearly determined period of time and 26 projects requested for an extension of the implementation period, mainly because of the need to reorganize their activities to the new context.

Even in these conditions, the Programme continued the implementation and made further steps towards its targets. The contracting process was finalized in 2020 and no other projects are foreseen to be further contracted, as the set targets for 2023 are already covered by the contracted projects. Priority axes 4 “A skilled and inclusive region” and 5 “An efficient region” are almost closed, considering that more than 90% of the projects under these PAs are already finalized (5 projects remaining to be finalized in 2021, 1 under PA4 and 4 under PA5) and the targets of the related indicators have been reached or are close to being

reached (all indicators on PA4 reached more than 85% of the targets and the output indicator on PA5, more than 75%). For PA 2 “A green region”, 61.43% of the projects are already finalized and indicators’ targets are reached in a proportion of more than 75% (only one at 51%). The projects under PA1 “A well connected region” and PA3 “A safe region”, need more time for implementation due to their investment specificity. In this regard, 19.05% of the projects under PA1 and 42.86% of the projects under PA3 have been completed. The related indicators for PA 1 and 3 will register important progress during the next years (all indicators are below 50%).

Following the implementation progress of the Programme, corroborated with the 2018 MC decision to approve over-contracting at programme level with 15.61%, it was decided to modify the programme in order to reach the targets set for indicators and to ensure a 100% absorption rate.

The modification of the Programme was approved by the EC decision 27.11.2020 C(2020) 8549 and consists mainly in reallocating the amount of €16,900,386 from the ERDF as following: from PA2 "A green region", 3 "A safe region", 4 "A qualified and inclusive region" and 5 "An efficient region" to PA1 "A well-connected region". In addition, the modification of the Programme also consists in adjusting the target values of the indicators set for 2023 in terms of output, result and financial indicators. The proposed OP change doesn't affect the previously proposed contribution to the EU2020 Strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, but in reality increases its contribution, as it is able to achieve more (increase in technical indicators contribution) with the same amount of money, redistributed between priority axes.

Due to 2020 COVID restrictions, the classical methods of communication needed to be adapted. Therefore, benefiting from the modern technologies and means of communication, the focus was put on online communication tools (online technical assistance meetings, virtual thematic meetings with the beneficiaries) and promotion measures (online Annual Conference, EC Day, Cooperation Day and online site visit for promoting projects).

The pandemic crisis has demonstrated the importance of preparedness and the coordination capacities. In this respect, the beneficiaries got involved in the fight against COVID19, working closely with the Programme bodies for covering the needs regarding specific medical supplies, as: medical masks, gloves, disinfectants etc. and equipment for digitalizing the implementation process, such as electronic signatures, video-conference equipment and / or software etc.

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
PA 1	A well connected region	<p>21 projects were contracted (total 134.56 mil Euro), out of which one in 2020. So far, 4 projects were finalized, out of which 2 were soft projects: RoBg2 developing strategies and plans and RoBg1 developing an e-bike system. The other 2 are hard projects (RoBg127, RoBg133) and they were focused on modernization of roads. The total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads was of 49.63 km (33.09% out of the total 150 km target) serving 131,687 people (6.58% out of the total target of 2 mil. people). The contribution to indicator 7b.1-Number of joint mechanisms to facilitate the connection of secondary/tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure was ensured by RoBg133.</p> <p>No results have yet been registered for the SO1.2-Increase transport safety on waterways and maritime transport routes. The project RoBg522 which is covering the entire output and result indicators related with this SO is performing with no major risks identified and will ensure a contribution of 100% to the output indicator Total length of new and improved inland waterway and also, it will ensure a 50% contribution to the output indicator Number of studies, strategies and action plans to improve safety of the navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea supported. For this last indicator, the other 50 % is already achieved by a still running project, namely RoBg130.</p> <p>No major risks or problems have been identified. For the ongoing projects, the works for modernization of the infrastructure have already started, but the complexity of the investments and public procurement issues combined with the impact of COVID19 might cause delays.</p>
PA 2	A green region	<p>Out of 70 projects contracted, one project was terminated, meaning that 69 projects remained contracted. In total, 43 projects were finalized, out of which 20 in 2020. These were focused on valorising the cultural and natural heritage for sustainable economic use: 3 were focused on the promotion of a green tourism; 12 have created tourism products related to common natural, historical and cultural heritage; 3 were focused on the promotion of sport and adventure tourism; 2 were related to the promotion of fishing tourism in the CBC area.</p> <p>These projects have brought the achievement of the indicator No of integrated tourism products/services created to 78 at the end of 2020 (78% out of the set target) and of the indicator No of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorizing the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses to 44 (58.67% out of a total target). The results of projects were affected by the COVID19 crisis which had a negative impact on tourism in the CBC area.</p> <p>As regards SO 2.2 “Enhance the sustainable management of the ecosystems from the cross border area”, all the projects contributing to this objective were finalized since 2019; the indicators Habitats supported to attain a better conservation (27,059 ha achieved, compared to the 27,000 target value) and NATURA 2000 sites in the cross border area with coordinated management tools (11 achieved, compared to 12 sites, target value) were already reported as achieved. In addition one project which shall be finalized in 2021, implemented under SO 2.1, foresees a contribution to this SO (RoBg464).</p>

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
PA 3	A safe region	<p>A total number of 28 projects were contracted (45.27 mil Eur), out of which 2 in 2020. In total 12 projects were finalized, out of which 5 in 2020.</p> <p>RoBg409 and 427 were contracted in 2020, contributing to a higher absorption rate and to the achievement of the output indicator Number of joint partnerships in the field of jointly warning and emergency response, which at that moment reached 88% of the target. The contribution to the output and result indicators is reduced compared with the rest of the Programme's 5 PAs (except the TA) due to delays generated by the complex procurements and COVID19 impact. Thus, 10 out of the 28 projects extended their implementation period.</p> <p>The contribution of the finalized projects ensured that 487,447 people are benefiting from actions of risk management (11.61% of the target of 4.2 mil) and 26,716 people are benefiting from flood and forest fire protection measures (0.64% out of the 4.2 mil. target), while for the indicator Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response, 10 partnerships are established (20% out of the total target of 50 partnerships).</p> <p>The delivered outputs in 2020 are related to: setting common management and intervention groups, establishment of a management and training centre, developing guidelines for joint approach for handling emergency situations, developing volunteer networks, developing a guide for citizen for disaster preparedness, procurement of equipment: firefighting intervention trucks, aerial surveillance drone, inflatable tents, extendable ladders, first aid kits, gas masks, firefighter's clothing etc.</p>
PA 4	A skilled and inclusive region	<p>Out of 34 projects contracted two projects were terminated, meaning that 32 projects remained contracted. Out of these 32 projects, 31 were completed (2 in 2020) and 1 project was still under implementation at the end of 2020. Therefore all output and result indicators specific for this PA are reached. The remaining project, RoBg175, is foreseen to finalize the implementation at the beginning of 2021. The results achieved by the 2 projects finalized in 2020 are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project RoBg183 has increased the employment opportunities and the mobility of the labor force by the development of special competences and skills in the field of innovative ecotourism, organic agriculture and food production, in the selected cross-border area - Vidin Lyaskovets (training courses, language courses). Also, the developed web-based platform for green job opportunities in the cross-border region is available to any interested party who is seeking or offering workforce, with or without a certain qualification, as well as to the people interested to find service providers in the area; - Project RoBg204 has developed a FairDeal e-commerce platform, designed as a cybermediary application, providing for virtual storefronts, where interested SMEs, traderspersons and craftspeople of the CB area can host market artisan products and services. Therefore, the already reported achieved indicators were enriched in 2020 with the above-mentioned results increasing the overall access of the job seekers to labour opportunities within the cross border region. <p>A detailed list of outputs is available at https://www.interregrobg.eu/ro/projects/.</p>
PA 5	An efficient region	<p>19 projects contracted, with a total value of 15.18 mil. Euro, out of which 1 in 2020. 15 projects were completed (2 in 2020) and 4 were still running. As mentioned within the previous AIR, all indicators were achieved.</p> <p>The results achieved by the 2 finalized projects in 2020 are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RoBg172 has increased the cooperation capacity and the efficiency of the Bulgarian Executive Agency "Maritime Administration" (EAMA) and Romanian Naval Authority (RNA) in a CBC context, by developing a framework agreement on the

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
		<p>inspections performed under the river supervision regime and setting specific rules for navigation in the common Bulgarian - Romanian stretch of the Danube River. As a result, the RNA and EAMA developed an internal tool for exchange of important information which has improved their communication and ensured the coordination of the activities in the CBC region for a more efficient and safer river navigability.</p> <p>- RoBg188 has developed partnerships that enhanced the educational system of the schools in Calarasi – Silistra region by including in the educational curricula programs developed by the project.</p> <p>Overall, the projects finalized in 2020 have contributed to the improvement of the institutional capacity of public authorities in the field of navigation on the Danube River, increasing also the cooperation capacity and the efficiency of national responsible public institutions in a CBC context.</p> <p>Likewise, at a smaller scale, the capacity building of the local education providers in Calarasi – Silistra region for delivering education, was enhanced by the CBC approach. A detailed list of outputs is available at https://www.interregrobg.eu/ro/projects/.</p>
PA 6	Technical assistance	<p>During 2020, the Programme structures have used the TA funds for ensuring the necessary support related to the programme implementation (contracting, monitoring, FLC verifications, staff costs, applicants and beneficiaries support, audit, communication and information activities etc.) and evaluations (at Programme level), for closure activities of the 2007-2013 CBC Programme (e.g. post monitoring visits) as well as for preparing the future programme. All the activities related to the Programme implementation have been adapted to the new pandemic context, and they were focused on minimizing the effects of COVID 19. Thus, the Programme structures have provided technical assistance to strengthen the beneficiaries' capacity in coordinating, managing and implementing the projects, in order to overcome the major challenge generated by the pandemic COVID -19.</p> <p>Thus, 43 technical assistance meetings (27 online, 13 at the headquarters of the JS, 2 at the JS antenna in Ruse and 1 at beneficiaries' headquarters) were organized for the beneficiaries of projects under implementation. Providing information and clarifications on the provisions of the Programme was carried out by the experts of the programme structures also through written, telephone and electronic correspondence.</p> <p>The impact of these supporting activities is quantified in the better understanding of the Programme rules, in the quality of the reports at the project and partner level and modification requests submitted by the beneficiaries of the projects under implementation.</p>

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	PA 1 - A well connected region
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 1.7b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	150.00	49.63	The hard projects contributing to this indicator were contracted in 2017 – 2018. The progress registered in 2020 is a moderate one, more outputs shall be reported for 2021 – 2022 as the infrastructure projects shall be finalized in this period.
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	150.00	238.63	The target value of the indicator was modified following the Programme modification, from 120 to 150 km
F	7b.1	Number of joint mechanisms (e.g. route guidance, incidents/emergencies detection and management, studies on traffic flows, feasibility studies addressing cross-border transport issues, traffic safety measures, black-spot maps, awareness raising activities)	Number of mechanisms facilitating connection	35.00	3.00	
S	7b.1	Number of joint mechanisms (e.g. route guidance, incidents/emergencies detection and management, studies on traffic flows, feasibility studies addressing cross-border transport issues, traffic safety measures, black-spot maps, awareness raising activities)	Number of mechanisms facilitating connection	35.00	49.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	30.61	7.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	219.31	165.15	79.94	79.94	0.00	0.00
F	7b.1	Number of joint mechanisms (e.g. route guidance, incidents/emergencies detection and management, studies on traffic flows, feasibility studies addressing cross-border transport issues, traffic safety measures, black-spot maps, awareness raising activities)	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	7b.1	Number of joint mechanisms (e.g. route guidance, incidents/emergencies detection and management, studies on traffic flows, feasibility studies addressing cross-border transport issues, traffic safety measures, black-spot maps, awareness raising activities)	46.00	31.00	8.00	8.00	3.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 1 - A well connected region
Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Specific objective	SO1.1 - Improve the planning, development and coordination of cross-border transport systems for better connections to TEN-T transport networks

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 1.7b.SO1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 1.1	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T	Number	626,140.00	2014	2,000,000.00	757,827.00		The contribution for 2018-2020 period is of 131,687 people served by the modernized infrastructure. The total value reported for 2020 is calculated by adding this achievement to the baseline value (626,140). The target value of this indicators was modified in 2020, from 1,250,000 to 2,000,000 people.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 1.1	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T	721,540.00		628,334.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 1.1	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T				

Priority axis	PA 1 - A well connected region
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 1.7c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO16	Inland waterways: Total length of improved or created inland waterway	km	479.00	0.00	No intermediary contribution was reported by the end of 2020. The project ensuring the achievement of this indicator, foreseen initially to be finalized in 2020 (RoBg522) has encountered problems in implementation which led to an extension of the implementation period until the end of 2021. Still, the project made important progress.
S	CO16	Inland waterways: Total length of improved or created inland waterway	km	479.00	479.00	Two projects are contributing to this indicator, one of which is implemented by the relevant national bodies for the navigation on the Romanian – Bulgarian common sector of the Danube. The results of this project are covering the entire length of the abovementioned sector with a system designed to improve the navigation conditions (RoBg522)
F	7c.1	Number of studies, strategies and action plans to improve safety of the navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea supported	Number of strategies, action plans	2.00	1.00	The second contribution to this indicator is ensured by project RoBg522 and shall be provided by the end of 2021
S	7c.1	Number of studies, strategies and action plans to improve safety of the navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea supported	Number of strategies, action plans	2.00	2.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO16	Inland waterways: Total length of improved or created inland waterway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO16	Inland waterways: Total length of improved or created inland waterway	470.00	470.00	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
F	7c.1	Number of studies, strategies and action plans to improve safety of the navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea supported	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	7c.1	Number of studies, strategies and action plans to improve safety of the navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea supported	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 1 - A well connected region
Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Specific objective	SO1.2 - Increase transport safety on waterways and maritime transport routes

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 1.7c.SO1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 1.2	% of the RO-BG CBC Danube length and Black Sea where safety of the navigation have been improved	percent	1.29	2014	50.00			No projects were finalized in 2020 in this field.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 1.2	% of the RO-BG CBC Danube length and Black Sea where safety of the navigation have been improved								

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 1.2	% of the RO-BG CBC Danube length and Black Sea where safety of the navigation have been improved				

Priority axis	PA 2 - A green region
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 2.6c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	100,000.00	67,436.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures. The projects report cumulative values of new visits (not divided per year). In order to reflect the requirement of the common output indicator, the Programme structures divided the no. of visits per the years spent in implementation. In this regard, considering the finalized projects' contribution, the value of the visits, per year, is as follows: 2017: 7,600 visits; 2018: 42,118 visits, 2019: 8,606 visits, 9,112 in 2020. Thus, the cumulated value is reflected in the table.
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	100,000.00	287,719.00	The target is based on the forecast provided by the contracted projects (cumulative values, not divided per years). The division will be performed by the Programme structures, when reporting the actual achieved contribution. No increase has been registered in 2020 as no projects contributing to this indicator were contracted in 2020.
F	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	Number	100.00	78.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures
S	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	Number	100.00	178.00	The forecast includes the contribution of the contracted projects.
F	6c.2	Number of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorising (including raising awareness) the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses	Number of common strategies/management plans approved	75.00	44.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures
S	6c.2	Number of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorising (including raising awareness) the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses	Number of common strategies/management plans approved	75.00	87.00	The forecast includes the contribution of the contracted projects.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	58,324.00	49,718.00	7,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	287,719.00	272,719.00	120,030.00	120,030.00	100,630.00	0.00
F	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	34.00	32.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	178.00	177.00	50.00	50.00	41.00	0.00
F	6c.2	Number of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorising (including raising awareness) the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses	16.00	14.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	6c.2	Number of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorising (including raising awareness) the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses	87.00	86.00	35.00	35.00	19.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 2 - A green region
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	SO2.1 - To improve the sustainable use of natural heritage and resources and cultural heritage

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 2.6c.SO2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 2.1	Number of tourist overnights in the CBC region	Number of Overnights	6,668,515.00	2013	8,800,000.00			The value reflects the measurement performed in 2018, envisaging an increase of the total number of 2,157,884 overnights. The indicator will be measured again for 2021 and 2023. Therefore, no values are reported to for 2020.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 2.1	Number of tourist overnights in the CBC region			8,826,399.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 2.1	Number of tourist overnights in the CBC region				

Priority axis	PA 2 - A green region
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 2.6d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	27,000.00	27,058.50	The projects contributing to this indicators were completed in 2019. Thus, the target indicator is reached.
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	27,000.00	27,058.50	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	27,058.50	27,058.50	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	27,058.50	27,058.50	27,058.50	27,058.50	27,058.50	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]

Priority axis	PA 2 - A green region
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Specific objective	SO2.2 - To enhance the sustainable management of the ecosystems from the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 2.6d.SO2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 2.2	NATURA 2000 sites from the cross-border area with coordinated management tools	Number	2.00	2014	12.00	13.00		All projects were completed in 2019. One project, financed under PA 2, 6c - RoBg464 – will contribute to this result indicator. The project is still under implementation (4 Natura 2000 sites) and it will be finalized in January 2021. Also, the value reported in 2018 was revised, by adding the contribution of the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme (11) to the set baseline (2).

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 2.2	NATURA 2000 sites from the cross-border area with coordinated management tools	13.00		13.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 2.2	NATURA 2000 sites from the cross-border area with coordinated management tools				

Priority axis	PA 3 - A safe region
Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 3.5b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	4,200,000.00	26,716.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures..
S	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	There is one project implemented by the relevant national institutions in this field, covering the entire eligible area with specific action in the benefit of the entire population. The value of the indicator was decreased from 4,770,000 to 4,200,000 according with the modification of the Programme's targets based on the latest population statistics.
F	CO21	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Persons	4,200,000.00	26,717.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	CO21	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Persons	4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	There is one project implemented by the relevant national institutions in this field, covering the entire eligible area with specific action in the benefit of the entire population. The value of the indicator was decreased from 4,770,000 to 4,200,000 according with the modification of the Programme's targets based on the latest population statistics.
F	5b.1	Population benefiting from actions of risk management	Number	4,200,000.00	487,447.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	5b.1	Population benefiting from actions of risk management	Number	4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	There are several projects in this field, covering the entire eligible area with specific action in the benefit of the entire population. The value of the indicator was decreased from 4,770,000 to 4,200,000 according with the modification of the Programme's targets based on the latest population statistics.
F	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	Number	50.00	10.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	Number	50.00	63.00	The forecast of all contracted projects

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	1,486,375.00	1,486,375.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	540,006.00	540,006.00	0.00	0.00
F	5b.1	Population benefiting from actions of risk management	304,370.00	291,093.00	6,018.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	5b.1	Population benefiting from actions of risk management	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	4,150,000.00	0.00
F	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	7.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	55.00	44.00	9.00	9.00	1.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 3 - A safe region
Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Specific objective	SO3.1 - To improve joint risk management in the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 3.5b.SO3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 3.1	The quality of the joint risk management in the CBC area	the satisfaction degree of the stakeholders in the area	2	2014	3			A survey for measuring the quality of the joint risk management in the CBC area was carried out in 2018 envisaging an increase of the quality of the joint risk management in the CBC area. The indicator will be measured again for 2021 and 2023. Therefore, no values are reported to for 2020.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 3.1	The quality of the joint risk management in the CBC area				3.5				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 3.1	The quality of the joint risk management in the CBC area				

Priority axis	PA 4 - A skilled and inclusive region
Investment priority	8e - Integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC-CB)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 4.8e

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	25,000.00	21,760.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	25,000.00	54,071.00	
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	9,000.00	9,915.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	9,000.00	9,915.00	The initial selected value (S) reported in AIR 2019 increased from 9,866 to 9,915, as the project ROBG156 has overachieved its contribution to this output indicator (no modification of contract/application form has been done in this regard).
F	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	Number	200.00	183.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	Number	200.00	293.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	18,474.00	4,540.00	116.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	54,071.00	54,071.00	54,071.00	54,071.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	9,096.00	3,743.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	9,866.00	9,791.00	9,791.00	9,701.00	0.00	0.00
F	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	162.00	121.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	293.00	293.00	293.00	293.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 4 - A skilled and inclusive region
Investment priority	8e - Integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC-CB)
Specific objective	SO4.1 - To encourage the integration of the cross-border area in terms of employment and labour mobility

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 4.8e.SO4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 4.1	Population that have access to joint employment initiatives	Number	200,000.00	2014	1,000,000.00	1,051,145.00		The cumulative contribution of the Programme to this result indicator is: 851,145 persons that have access to joint employment initiatives (from finalized / running projects).

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 4.1	Population that have access to joint employment initiatives	974,698.00		461,166.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 4.1	Population that have access to joint employment initiatives				

Priority axis	PA 5 - An efficient region
Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 5.11b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	Number	100.00	74.00	From intermediary and final project reports, verified by the Programme structures.
S	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	Number	100.00	127.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	62.00	14.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	127.00	127.00	127.00	127.00	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]

Priority axis	PA 5 - An efficient region
Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
Specific objective	SO5.1 - To increase cooperation capacity and the efficiency of public institutions in a CBC context

Table 1: Result indicators - PA 5.11b.SO5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
R 5.1	Level of co-ordination of the public institutions in the eligible area	Intensity of cooperation between cross-border stakeholders	3	2014	4			The value for 2018 is reflecting the latest measurement, namely from 2018. The next survey for measuring this indicator will be carried in 2022, for reporting the achievement until 31st of December 2021. The final survey will be done in 2024 for the achievements until 31st of December 2023. Therefore, no values are reported for 2020.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
R 5.1	Level of co-ordination of the public institutions in the eligible area				4				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R 5.1	Level of co-ordination of the public institutions in the eligible area				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA 6 - Technical assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA 6. Technical assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	TA6.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	Number		1.00	
S	TA6.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	Number		1.00	
F	TA6.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number		12.00	1 Monitoring Committee meeting was organized in 2020, online, due to the pandemic restrictions
S	TA6.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number		12.00	
F	TA6.4	No of events for beneficiaries	Number		74.00	4 events were organized in 2020.
S	TA6.4	No of events for beneficiaries	Number		74.00	
F	TA6.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number		72.00	Out of which 9 from MA.
S	TA6.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number		72.00	
F	TA6.6	Functional electronic system	number		1.00	
S	TA6.6	Functional electronic system	number		1.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	TA6.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	TA6.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA6.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	11.00	10.00	9.00	6.00	3.00	0.00
S	TA6.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA6.4	No of events for beneficiaries	70.00	59.00	49.00	30.00	16.00	0.00
S	TA6.4	No of events for beneficiaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA6.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	71.00	57.00	57.00	52.00	39.00	0.00
S	TA6.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	TA6.6	Functional electronic system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	TA6.6	Functional electronic system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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

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	2020	Observations
PA 1	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	Km of reconstructed or upgraded roads	150.00	49.63	
PA 1	F	1F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	8000000	116,333,743.00	22,475,137.86	
PA 1	I	1K1	Number of KM of roads to be upgraded or reconstructed for which tenders have been launched	Number of KM	60	150.00	238.63	
PA 2	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	1000	100,000.00	67,436.00	
PA 2	F	2F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	5100000	54,276,757.00	24,978,821.34	
PA 2	O	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	Number	10	100.00	78.00	
PA 3	F	3F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	4500000	41,571,197.00	14,244,885.24	
PA 3	O	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	Number	10	50.00	10.00	
PA 4	F	4F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	1000000	13,807,295.00	12,597,871.58	
PA 4	O	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	Number	10	200.00	183.00	
PA 5	F	5F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	1000000	12,600,168.00	9,138,069.63	
PA 5	O	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	Number	10	100.00	74.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PA 1	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	30.61	7.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA 1	F	1F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	13,904,770.59	8,022,462.12	607,924.86	69,370.37	0.00
PA 1	I	1K1	Number of KM of roads to be upgraded or reconstructed for which tenders have been launched	Number of KM	175.00	123.07	15.01	0.00	0.00
PA 2	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	58,324.00	49,718.00	7,600.00	0.00	0.00
PA 2	F	2F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	17,982,064.69	9,975,330.14	4,476,584.44	997,046.62	0.00
PA 2	O	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	Number	34.00	32.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
PA 3	F	3F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	17,043,333.37	15,105,886.36	641,618.70	121,431.54	0.00
PA 3	O	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	Number	7.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA 4	F	4F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	12,235,499.94	9,375,897.77	278,181.51	0.00	0.00
PA 4	O	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	Number	162.00	121.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
PA 5	F	5F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	8,453,888.79	5,339,299.55	44,981.41	0.00	0.00
PA 5	O	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	Number	62.00	14.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
PA 1	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	0.00
PA 1	F	1F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	0.00
PA 1	I	1K1	Number of KM of roads to be upgraded or reconstructed for which tenders have been launched	Number of KM	0.00
PA 2	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	0.00
PA 2	F	2F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	0.00
PA 2	O	6c.1	Number of integrated tourism products/services created	Number	0.00
PA 3	F	3F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	0.00
PA 3	O	5b.2	Number of joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response	Number	0.00
PA 4	F	4F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	0.00
PA 4	O	8e.1	No. of initiatives (trainings, education schemes, websites, agreements, networks, job-fairs etc.) that activate workforce mobility in the cross border area	Number	0.00
PA 5	F	5F1	(Certified) Expenditure	EUR	0.00
PA 5	O	11b.1	Number of supported cross border mechanisms (agreements, networks, regulations, studies, policies, strategies, information exchange tools) to enhance cooperation capacity	Number	0.00

Not validated

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 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	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
PA 1	ERDF	Total	116,333,743.00	85.00	134,561,296.54	115.67%	134,534,962.98	44,183,359.34	37.98%	21
PA 2	ERDF	Total	54,276,757.00	85.00	59,932,378.91	110.42%	59,540,899.94	31,316,116.10	57.70%	69
PA 3	ERDF	Total	41,571,197.00	85.00	45,279,876.68	108.92%	45,230,730.86	23,977,268.04	57.68%	28
PA 4	ERDF	Total	13,807,295.00	85.00	16,277,977.28	117.89%	16,054,405.95	13,527,227.56	97.97%	32
PA 5	ERDF	Total	12,600,168.00	85.00	15,184,146.51	120.51%	15,159,113.43	9,738,375.95	77.29%	19
PA 6	ERDF	Total	19,914,966.00	65.00	17,538,040.00	88.06%	17,538,040.00	8,669,145.55	43.53%	16
Total	ERDF		258,504,126.00	83.46	288,773,715.92	111.71%	288,058,153.16	131,411,492.54	50.84%	185
Grand total			258,504,126.00	83.46	288,773,715.92	111.71%	288,058,153.16	131,411,492.54	50.84%	185

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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Not validated

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	BG312	4,000,434.22	4,000,434.22	0.00	1
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	BG321	4,769,687.25	4,767,340.81	37,994.95	1
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	BG323	6,326,447.20	6,326,447.20	2,426,792.77	1
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	RO223	30,872,013.65	30,872,013.65	18,190,973.31	4
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	RO314	20,756,005.57	20,756,005.57	4,879,618.69	3
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	RO317	19,335,134.21	19,335,134.21	7,415,149.52	3
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	RO411	19,424,565.82	19,424,565.82	1,038,947.38	3
PA 1	ERDF	034	01	07	07	07		08	RO413	7,943,701.93	7,943,701.93	2,268,528.67	1
PA 1	ERDF	041	01	07	07	07		08	BG323	7,345,319.73	7,345,319.73	4,767,587.46	1
PA 1	ERDF	041	01	07	07	07		12	RO312	5,946,041.74	5,946,041.74	50,558.27	1
PA 1	ERDF	044	01	07	07	07		12	BG311	737,724.99	737,724.99	705,711.49	1
PA 1	ERDF	044	01	07	07	07		12	BG314	1,380,246.63	1,371,508.83	1,070,699.90	1
PA 1	ERDF	044	01	07	07	07		12	BG323	5,699,612.87	5,699,612.87	1,322,080.91	1
PA 1	ERDF	044	01	07	07	07		12	BG411	9,297.45	9,111.41	8,716.02	1
PA 2	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06		24	BG312	601,996.28	589,950.34	539,582.16	1
PA 2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		15	BG311	258,191.52	253,025.12	228,986.52	1
PA 2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		15	RO321	1,082,716.06	1,082,716.06	726,647.15	1
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG311	3,396,797.78	3,335,471.35	3,096,495.48	6
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG312	1,862,104.49	1,852,146.20	850,056.40	2
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG313	2,147,901.11	2,142,894.64	925,727.55	3
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG314	4,392,206.08	4,343,627.67	2,577,045.89	4
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG323	2,342,505.07	2,329,486.50	1,142,858.78	3
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG332	1,494,037.68	1,494,037.68	150,897.74	1
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	BG411	7,378.99	7,231.34	6,615.01	1
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO223	2,453,220.63	2,443,742.84	987,927.27	3
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO312	2,411,189.65	2,366,700.48	2,116,083.68	5
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO321	25,504.62	24,994.27	21,498.82	2
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO411	955,387.05	936,269.77	881,527.96	2
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO413	380,805.19	373,185.29	318,372.86	1
PA 2	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		23	RO414	1,086,671.71	1,064,927.42	615,768.68	2
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		23	BG411	486,028.75	484,113.78	203,798.39	1
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG311	2,304,915.04	2,263,339.82	1,909,914.40	6
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG312	693,880.93	679,996.38	645,517.99	1
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG313	495,103.46	495,103.46	363,178.84	1
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG314	8,125,172.29	8,111,140.34	2,971,811.21	4
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG321	4,326,563.32	4,323,314.30	1,906,685.27	3
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG323	2,944,528.15	2,914,793.71	1,188,377.11	4
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG325	2,886,611.42	2,886,611.42	865,296.58	3
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG332	3,941,093.44	3,941,093.44	2,347,558.81	3
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG411	3,948.83	3,948.83	3,487.88	1
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	RO223	4,947,719.49	4,941,032.54	1,416,007.40	3
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	RO314	360,279.12	356,501.42	254,173.18	1
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	RO317	2,597,519.00	2,597,519.00	1,221,961.77	2
PA 2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	RO411	920,401.76	901,984.53	832,255.32	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG311	278,390.69	275,701.16	64,640.52	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG312	1,259,228.98	1,252,251.77	1,022,659.79	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG313	937,151.73	937,151.73	740,987.28	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG314	2,199,943.00	2,193,006.88	1,465,599.25	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG321	4,842,920.20	4,842,920.20	3,410,259.02	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG323	829,984.18	829,984.18	694,920.24	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG325	998,815.75	998,163.14	189,912.12	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	BG332	800,216.17	800,216.17	59,316.07	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO223	988,827.18	985,655.16	873,879.03	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO312	1,298,720.48	1,293,556.05	436,062.52	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO314	6,759,457.15	6,755,061.33	753,023.67	3
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO321	1,008,946.32	1,008,946.32	158,073.02	1
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO411	1,222,530.55	1,216,916.43	220,810.92	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO413	2,066,279.25	2,066,279.25	1,655,472.61	2
PA 3	ERDF	087	01	07	07	05		22	RO414	916,047.52	916,047.52	72,865.44	1
PA 3	ERDF	088	01	07	07	05		22	BG311	288,084.21	282,319.65	261,208.70	1
PA 3	ERDF	088	01	07	07	05		22	RO322	12,648,689.90	12,640,910.50	11,890,402.19	3
PA 3	ERDF	088	01	07	07	05		22	RO411	5,935,643.42	5,935,643.42	7,175.65	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	BG312	161,949.92	160,581.85	143,796.72	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	BG314	598,785.51	598,785.51	424,858.94	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	BG321	1,714,711.73	1,704,804.02	1,514,268.38	2
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	BG323	312,937.17	306,675.30	274,609.72	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	BG332	711,645.52	703,113.96	573,007.81	2
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO223	833,632.44	831,692.51	695,193.28	2
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO312	656,665.01	643,525.16	528,688.68	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO314	597,259.23	590,473.82	386,407.88	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO321	584,872.97	578,784.47	487,131.01	1
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO411	2,498,784.74	2,460,285.87	2,246,078.65	5
PA 4	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	RO413	1,093,192.89	1,079,825.42	871,314.14	2
PA 4	ERDF	106	01	07	07	08		21	BG321	1,166,026.41	1,150,080.57	837,935.91	2
PA 4	ERDF	106	01	07	07	08		21	BG332	818,592.96	805,297.31	713,389.98	2
PA 4	ERDF	106	01	07	07	08		21	RO411	1,402,364.20	1,374,302.91	1,198,412.55	2
PA 4	ERDF	108	01	07	07	08		21	BG323	853,777.72	836,693.64	748,555.30	2
PA 4	ERDF	108	01	07	07	08		21	BG332	378,122.50	370,556.28	292,525.00	1
PA 4	ERDF	108	01	07	07	08		21	RO312	1,369,699.19	1,344,474.57	1,146,895.79	3
PA 4	ERDF	108	01	07	07	08		21	RO314	524,957.17	514,452.78	444,157.82	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		12	BG411	1,440,504.40	1,440,504.40	1,301,120.91	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		15	RO223	721,492.63	712,057.59	624,741.77	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		18	BG312	1,450,529.96	1,450,529.96	94,315.71	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		18	BG323	1,081,938.54	1,081,938.54	170,397.59	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		18	BG332	427,222.06	427,222.06	335,916.76	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		18	RO314	739,577.73	739,577.73	604,537.83	2
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		18	RO317	811,253.08	811,253.08	0.00	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		20	RO317	1,475,894.96	1,475,894.96	1,326,426.97	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		20	RO411	1,300,322.42	1,300,322.42	1,226,676.21	1
PA 5	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		21	RO223	538,554.97	538,554.97	234,388.99	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		18	BG323	366,816.47	364,100.17	338,833.22	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		19	BG312	145,020.62	145,020.62	121,864.29	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		19	BG332	170,806.17	170,806.17	111,376.90	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		19	BG413	1,309,615.60	1,304,126.73	1,071,876.91	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		19	RO223	372,178.65	372,178.65	285,261.57	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		19	RO312	994,896.64	994,896.64	787,068.40	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		20	RO223	1,489,666.82	1,489,234.51	864,228.79	1
PA 5	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		21	BG311	347,854.79	340,894.23	239,343.13	1
PA 6	ERDF	121	01	07	07			13	BG411	666,839.78	666,839.78	0.00	2
PA 6	ERDF	121	01	07	07			13	RO321	3,254,094.50	3,254,094.50	997,532.39	5
PA 6	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	RO312	11,293,431.85	11,293,431.85	6,613,234.96	9
PA 6	ERDF	122	01	07	07			13	RO321	336,175.73	336,175.73	89,423.18	5
PA 6	ERDF	123	01	07	07			13	BG411	29,991.22	29,991.22	0.00	2
PA 6	ERDF	123	01	07	07			13	RO321	594,574.77	594,574.77	152,121.96	5
PA 6	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	RO312	1,362,932.15	1,362,932.15	816,833.06	4

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 ERDF 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 ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	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 ERDF at programme level *100)
33	2,604,996.82	1.21%	2,332,976.78	1.08%

(1) ERDF 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

A full programme evaluation was performed by independent external experts during October 2019-October 2020, covering the evolution of the programme from its beginning and until the end of 2019.

A. Implementation evaluation

The methodological toolbox encompassed methods of data collection and processing, methods of quantitative analysis supporting data analysis and interpretation and methods of qualitative analysis completing quantitative methods.

Main conclusions

Programme Relevance

- The programme is well rooted in the crossborder area, in a consistent continuity with the previous programming period and based on a well-grounded territorial analysis that is in a wide part still actual and valid.
- The programme has a good level of complementarity with the national policies and contributes strongly to the EUSDR.
- The high number of organizations/institutions involved in the projects represents a particularly positive feature, suggesting a good level of cooperation, both in intensity and in the thematic/geographical coverage.

Programme Implementation

- All programme resources have been contracted, midterm performance targets achieved, and the final achievements look at reach.
- There is a programme implementation strategy clearly based on wisdom and prudence, capitalizing on the lessons learnt in the past programming period.
- The programme has a strong strategic management with very clear priority values: full absorption of resources and smooth achievement of Programme targets.
- The programme implementation is progressing well in terms of reaching the specific objectives and related indicators. The reported values of the indicators are suggesting that the specific objectives are on track.
- The portfolio of the projects under implementation suggests that the Programme will not face significant risks of decommitment neither in the upcoming years. Nevertheless, the public procurement procedures may have an impact on the smooth implementation of the projects.

Programme management

- Programme management processes and procedures are the result of a stratification of gradual improvements resulting from the experience of two full programming periods, during which the key staff of the management system bodies has had the great advantage of remaining practically unchanged.
- The applicant's guide and pack are useful and tailored around the needs of the applicants. In general, the support provided by the Programme is adequate and the quality of the project proposals is a good one.
- The programme significantly progressed the project assessment and selection processes compared to the previous programming period. More important, the beneficiaries have high

levels of confidence in the project selection and assessment processes and believe that project assessment, selection and contracting processes are efficient.

- Achievement of targets for the TA projects is progressing well but there is room to improve the efficiency of TA expenditure.
- Simplified cost options are perceived as very useful by the large majority of beneficiaries and promoted by the Managing structures.
- There is room for further simplification in the programme management procedures – rationalisation and efficiency of the first level control system and adoption of a full digital approach in all documental flows to/from the project beneficiaries.
- There is room to improve the representativeness of the Monitoring Committee

B. Communication evaluation

The evaluation made use of a mix of methodological tools to assess the quality and effectiveness of the communication strategy, in terms of achievement of objectives, instruments, actions and tools and impact on the awareness of beneficiaries/potential beneficiaries.

Main conclusions

- The communication activities implemented by the Programme are in line with the general and specific objectives established in the Communication Strategy document and in the Annual Communication Plans. The existing communication documents are clear, have welldefined objectives and present concrete measures to be taken in the field of communication.
- The communication objectives established at the level of the Programme documents are quantifiable and easy to monitor.
- The Programme was effective so far in achieving the objectives, indicators and results of the Communication Strategy.
- The Programme has good capacity to mobilise potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries and to inform the general public about the opportunities offered.
- The Programme Communication activity supports the beneficiaries in implementing the communication activities through a set of tools and initiatives which are perceived by beneficiaries as very useful.
- The Programme Communication activity is contributing to increasing the visibility of the Programme opportunities among potential beneficiaries and the general public.
- The Programme performed very well in increasing the awareness on the opportunities offered by the Programme, thus resulting consequently in a greater visibility of the EU contribution.

C. Impact evaluation

The methodological approach on which this impact evaluation report was constructed relied on methods of theory-based impact evaluation, centred on desk-based research of instruments and their intervention logic – as one angle – and work on the field for collection of primary data through interviews, document analysis, surveys and case studies – as additional angles. Moreover, the use of data collection instruments was based on the principle of triangulation of the findings, so to assure a robust set of conclusions for each evaluation question.

Main conclusions

Impact on Regional Development

- A number of exchange opportunities was implemented through the Programme, offering the people from the crossborder area more and more occasions to get to know each other.
- The Programme has had real effects on citizens' lives, helping to stem situations of poverty and social exclusion and early school leaving, and also by promoting medical prevention.
- The Programme contributed to a large extent to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Impact on Sustainability

- Many projects were the continuation of projects implemented in the previous programming period and financed under the previous CBC Programme. This continuity – one of the key strong points of the Programme – highlights the fact that projects are often designed to last longer than the specific period of implementation.

Contribution of the Programme to the Europe 2020 Strategy targets

- The most substantial contribution of the Programme to the Europe 2020 Strategy targets is focused on inclusive growth. Based on the monitoring data the Programme's contribution to smart and sustainable growth seems to be more limited in comparison to its contribution towards a more inclusive growth.

General Conclusions and Recommendations

- All the priority axes have recorded significant improvements and emphasised that all the areas of intervention are connected to each other and are capable of creating positive spillover effects in other domains.
- The Programme's outputs and results are likely to be sustainable in the long run. However, the financial corrections and the allocation of funds remain an issue of concern.

The findings of the impact evaluation on each thematic objective are detailed in the table below.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Impact	07	Impact on transport (roads and waterways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 120 Kms of roads have been covered by modernisation projects and over 600,000 people have benefited from an improved road network leading to TEN-T. • Romania and Bulgaria signed a co-operation memorandum in 2017 with the objective of carrying significant investments in local infrastructures, especially bridges. This convergence of priorities and objectives should – in principle – expand the possible impact of the Programme. • The relevance of the interventions is indeed the strong point of this Programme. Most of the projects are needed due to the lack of functioning infrastructure in the area. • The relevant indicators related to the Danube navigation safety reached 100% completion rate, covering the whole RO-BG CBC Danube length which corresponds to 470 km. • A remarkable unintended but significant effect related to the improvements on roads safety is the spill over on the local economy. Improved connectivity brought about more internal mobility and thus the creation of new business and economic initiatives.
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Impact	06	Impact on heritage and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of tourists increased in comparison with the previous programming period. • The total number of accommodation establishments in the eligible area increased between 2015 and 2019 by 1.74%. • The joint intervention and joint approach of the projects had an important effect on the contribution of the Programme to the

								<p>sustainable usage of natural and cultural heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key factors that facilitated the contribution to the progress in using sustainably the natural and cultural heritage and in improving tourism in the cross-border area were: quality of partnerships created inside the projects, financial allocation, use of grants, stakeholders' consultation and needs assessment. • Innovation was considered to be an unintended positive effect for the Programme in general, and for this priority axis in particular. • The development of 34 new touristic products and the implementation of applications and websites offered access to information, as well as to new touristic activities, which facilitated the contribution of the Programme to the improvement of tourism in the cross-border area. • The projects contributed to a great extent in improving the management and protection of NATURA 2000 sites in the cross-border area including through innovative products and approaches. The joint solutions offer an important improvement of joint management and protection of NATURA 2000 sites.
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Impact	05	<p>Impact on risk management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-institutional communication between Romanian and Bulgarian response forces has improved. Partnerships have been established in the field of early warning and emergency response and the capacity of the specialized units has been increased. • The most important aspects that have undergone change are related to both the enhancement of the capacity of the specialized units for joint prevention activities and the

									provision and/or improvement of the available equipment.
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Impact	08	Impact on employment integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current and expected contribution of the interventions under the Programme to the progress of the cross-border area integration in terms of employment and labour mobility is mainly related to active social inclusion/mobility measures and general/youth joint local employment initiatives and trainings.• The Programme has made considerable progress in strengthening the labour market competitiveness of the individuals at the level of these regions, a fact that is emphasized by the high level of overachievement of the output indicators that are related to encouraging the integration of the area in terms of employment and labour mobility.• The Programme has had a significant impact in creating cooperation relations in the business environment in the cross-border area, which also implies capitalised results on employment, quality of life, flexibility - mobility for work and availability for professional training adapted to the demand of the local labour market.
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Impact	11	Impact on institutional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Projects analysed give a great importance to boosting the capacity of common cross-border cooperation schemes, creating room for exchanging experiences and best practices and supporting the most suitable arrangements that maximise synergies on the two sides of the border. Modernization and better efficiency of public services are two of the recurrent strengths that emerge throughout the

									<p>analysis of interventions, in the context of complementarity and harmonization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The areas of intervention touched on some of the most urgent issues in the cross border area, intervening in a very practical manner but also in a cross-cutting way, by promoting cooperation, capacity building and exchange of experiences.
Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme	ERDF	1	2014	12	2019	Mixed	05 06 07 08 11	<p>A full programme evaluation was performed by independent external experts during October 2019-October 2020, covering the evolution of the programme from its beginning and until the end of 2019. The evaluation included the implementation and impact evaluation, as well as communication evaluation.</p>	<p>Details are included in section 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS.</p>

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

2020 was a challenging year, as the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak negatively affected the ongoing or planned activities under Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme funded projects. The programme focused on the new needs of the projects in the COVID-19 context, and supported the beneficiaries throughout these difficult times.

I. COVID -19 impact

Having as one of the main objective, the safety and protection of all participants in Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria funded projects, the Programme structures implemented measures for coping with the COVID-19 impact, as follows:

1. On 12th of March, the Managing Authority issued a note information for beneficiaries on how to proceed with the projects implementation in the context of COVID-19 measures. The document is available here: <https://www.interregrobg.eu/en/archive/602-important-information-for-beneficiaries.html>.
2. On 24th of March, the Programme recommended the beneficiaries to observe the safety measures and to use electronic signatures for all project implementation documents and requests, particularly during the lockdown period. The flat rate for administrative costs will cover such expenditures: <https://www.interregrobg.eu/en/archive/604-stay-safe-and-sign-electronically.html>.
3. On 1st of April, the management bodies of Interreg V-A Romania – Bulgaria Programme have revised the Project Implementation Manual for including the possibility to use the electronic signature for pre-contracting, first level control documents etc.
4. On 2nd of April, the EU legislative changes due to COVID-19 crisis, promoting investments in the healthcare systems and in other affected sectors in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
5. On 13th of April, the MA issued the Instruction no 12 for the beneficiaries, stating that the suspension of the implementation period determined by COVID-19 is not taken into account when counting the number of suspensions allowed by the contractual provisions, namely article 7. Rights and duties of the parties, section Lead Beneficiary of the subsidy contract and co-financing contract and article 6 of the monitoring agreement.
6. On 23rd of April, the MA issued the Instruction no 13 for the beneficiaries, to fight the crisis caused by the pandemic of coronavirus disease stating that the projects under implementation, selected under Priority Axis 3 and 5, dealing with risks or health related issues, can request the modification of the Application Form, in order to use their potential economies for making acquisitions related to the fight against COVID-19. For these modifications, no addendum to the subsidy contracts needed to be signed, as described in the Project Implementation Manual.
7. On 27th of April, the Programme published information about the European Commission guide for cross-border workers affected by traffic restrictions imposed by most EU Member States to limit the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus <https://www.interregrobg.eu/en/archive/611-guidelines-concerning-the-exercise-of-the-free-movement-of-workers-during-covid-19-outbreak.html>.

Also, the Programme monitored the impact of the COVID -19 on project implementation. In this regard, a centralized database of the projects affected by COVID 19 is updated weekly and the projects are kept under observation. The database monitors the projects requesting for suspension and / or extension of the implementation period, due to the COVID – 19 impact on their activities (e.g. events involving great number of people and travel between partners in Romania and Bulgaria that cannot be moved online). 7 requests for suspending the implementation period and 26 requests for extension of the implementation period have been registered.

Concluding, the programme has taken several measures in order to support projects in implementation during this period, among which: electronic signature of documents, allowing the suspension/prolongation of the implementation period, using the economies identified during implementation for projects financed within risk management or health field.

Also, all the projects are analysed during the monitoring process, including from COVID – 19 impact perspective. When the case, mitigation measures are proposed, on a case-by-case basis. Projects were encouraged to change the organization of events from face to face meetings to online meetings (for example for the project management teams), to organize smaller events with the maximum number of participants allowed by the national legislation in force etc. Each case was analysed separately and support was given to beneficiaries, mainly through JS technical assistance online meetings (on ZOOM platform) and through written communication.

II. Interruption of payments by EC

Following the verifications of the documents submitted by the Programme authorities for the closure of the accounting year 1.07.2018-30.06.2019, especially of the audit report on operations for the expenditure certified to EC during 1.07.2018-30.06.2019, EC concluded that the payments at Programme level should be interrupted until deficiencies at the level of projects as identified in the audit report of operations as well as at Programme level in respect of Key Requirement (KR) 4 - management verifications, KR 7 - proportionate anti-fraud measures are addressed KR 16 - Adequate audits of operations and KR 18 - Adequate procedures for providing a reliable audit opinion and for preparing the ACR.

In order to improve the management and control system for KR 4 and KR 7, the Programme managing and national authorities amended Programme strategic documents (Anti-fraud Strategy, Project Implementation Manual), included additional check-lists for the verification of conflict of interest and fraud indicators and re-performed the verification of the procurement procedures for the subsequent contracts of works and equipment for 2 (two) accounting years, respectively 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

In order to ensure payments for the beneficiaries, the Programme contracted a loan from the Romanian Ministry of Public Finance of 16 MEuro. Additionally, the Managing Authority ensured payments of Romanian beneficiaries from the Romanian budget and the National Authority ensured payments towards Bulgarian beneficiaries from the Bulgarian budget.

As mentioned above, tremendous efforts have been made at Programme level in order to de-block the situation at Programme level.

(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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Not validated

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

Not validated

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

Not validated

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/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	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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Not validated

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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Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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Not validated

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	PA 1 - A well connected region
Priority axis	PA 2 - A green region
Priority axis	PA 3 - A safe region
Priority axis	PA 4 - A skilled and inclusive region
Priority axis	PA 5 - An efficient region
Priority axis	PA 6 - Technical assistance

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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Not validated

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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Not validated

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

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
PA 1	7,185,324.23	7.27%
PA 2	660,587.31	1.43%
PA 3	28,862,961.87	81.68%
Total	36,708,873.41	17.01%

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Not validated

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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Not validated

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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Not validated

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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Not validated

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

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Not validated

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

Not validated

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

Not validated

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:

As reported in the previous Annual Implementation Report, 113 projects selected within the Programme with a total ERDF value of 171,279,520.51 Eur, received extra-points during the selection process due to the fact that are contributing to the EUSR. The common border – the Danube River - is considered in itself as a common project for economic and social cohesion of the region, increasing the competitiveness and the setting up of growth and jobs. Therefore, all 31 projects that had finalized the implementation in 2020 and the running projects are contributing to all 4 pillars of the EUSR.

- ☐ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- ☒ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- ☐ Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

Not validated

The pillar(s) and priority area(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Priority area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.1 - Mobility - waterways
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.2 - Mobility - rail, road & air
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.3 - Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.4 - Culture and tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.1 - Water quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.2 - Environmental risks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.3 - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.1 - Knowledge society
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.2 - Competitiveness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.3 - People & skills
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.1 - Institutional capacity & cooperation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.2 - Security

Not validated

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSDR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Name and function

Ministry of Foreign Affairs as National Coordinator of EUSDR

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSDR?

Yes ☒ No ☐

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSDR

Yes ☐ No ☒

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

169

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

113

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

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C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSDR?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Approximate or exact amount in Euro invested in the EUSDR:

ERDF	171,279,520.51
CF	
ESF	
EAFRD	
EMFF	
ENI	
IPA	
any other funds	
name of "any other funds"	-

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSDR (n.a. for 2016)

169 projects are contributing to all 4 pillars of the EUSRD: 1. Connecting the region (RoBg projects under PA 1), 2. Protecting the environment (RoBg projects under PA 2 and 3), 3. Building prosperity (RoBg projects under PA4) and 4. Strengthening the region (RoBg projects under PA 5 and PA 3). The main results of the projects are presented on the programme website, under the section dedicated to projects outputs.

E. Does the programme contribute to the targets as validated by the national coordinators and priority area coordinators in 2016 (uploaded on the EUSDR website)? (Please specify the target(s))

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Not validated

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

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Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Not validated

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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Not validated

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Not validated