



# Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

of the IPA CBC Programmes  
Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020

## August 2023

PHOTO CREDIT: PROJECT DISASTERS DO NOT KNOW BORDERS 2 – INFORMATIVE EVENTS

CONTENT

The seventeenth issue of the newsletter brings you information on activities and events implemented within both IPA Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo\* 2014-2020. Programmes and project activities are funded by the European Union.

Please find below more information on the programmes.

### IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020

The global objective of the programme is to promote/strengthen good neighbourly relations and socioeconomic development of the border regions, through valorising its touristic potentials, an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic development, with respect for its common cultural and natural heritage.

Click [here](#) for more information.

### IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020

The global objective of the programme is to improve the standard and quality of living of the people in the programme area through the environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic development of the region, with respect for its common cultural and natural heritage.

Click [here](#) for more information.

- »»» Documentary film on ecotourism in the territory of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo premiered in Podgorica..... 2
- »»» News on projects financed under the 2nd Call for Proposals (CfP) IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania..... 3
- »»» News on projects financed under the 2nd CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo ..... 4
- »»» News on projects financed under the 3rd Call for Proposals (CfP) IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania ..... 5
- »»» News on projects financed under the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo ..... 7
- »»» IPA III CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania promoted in Podgorica..... 10
- »»» IPA CBC Programmes structures take part at CBIB+ Regional CBC Consultative Forum..... 10

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the CBCP MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

# CBC ZOOM

## Documentary film on ecotourism in the territory of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo premiered in Podgorica

A documentary film on ecotourism entitled *Promotion of ecotourism on the territory of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo* premiered on 18 May at Europe House in Podgorica in the organization of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro.

The 15-minute film, which takes viewers on a journey through the border area of Montenegro and Albania and Montenegro and Kosovo, presents the results achieved within the framework of 8 cross-border cooperation projects in this area were presented.

Emphasizing the importance of cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Albania and Kosovo, General of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, **Bojan Vujović**, said that the dedication of the three operational structures, with all involved parties, enabled significant results to be shown in the field of tourism promotion and cultural and natural heritage.

"Within the framework of the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Albania, 21 projects with a total value of over 7 million euros have been supported so far, in the fields of tourism, employment, and environmental protection, all with the aim of improving the standards and quality of life of people in the programme area. On the other hand, within the framework of the programme Montenegro - Kosovo, 23 projects with a total value of more than 7 million euros were supported", emphasized **Vujović**.



**Trim Berisha**, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Local Government Administration of Kosovo, highlighted the cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo as an example of good neighbourly relations. "Within the framework of this programme, many activities were implemented with the aim of improving the quality of life in the border area of Montenegro and Kosovo, and the results of the projects testify to the ever-improving inter-institutional cooperation of the two countries", **Berisha** said.



In front of the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, **Kjara Adhami**, Director of the Directorate of the Administration of EU Financial Assistance, addressed the audience and assessed that the results on the ground are visible and that joint high-quality cooperation led to these great results.



**Liselotte Isaksson**, Deputy Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of European Union to Montenegro, expressed her satisfaction that the EU supported the development of the potential of the tourism sector in Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo.



"I am very proud that the European Union supported projects through which we received new and innovative products in this area, diversifying and making the tourist offer more accessible and attractive for visitors"

**Isaksson** pointed out. The documentary movie *Promotion of ecotourism on the territory of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo* can be viewed [here](#).

After the film screening, a panel discussion was held with representatives of projects that are funded under the cross-border cooperation programmes on the topic *Possibilities of cross-border cooperation and the importance of rural and ecotourism*.



**Snezana Zečević** from the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasića, Komovi and Prokletije, **Stilian Doraci** from EuroPartners Development from Albania and **Virtyt Morina** from the Municipality of Peja, Kosovo, discussed jointly with **Nikola Đonović**, from the Joint Technical Secretariat on key achievements of projects, experiences from the field and response of the final beneficiaries on the initiatives. During the panel it was assessed that CBC offers opportunities for significant interventions in local communities and that this instrument should be used by all stakeholders.



## News on projects financed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania

### Producers of medicinal herbs and honey received support from EU-funded project

Within the project *Promoting Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation* beneficiaries from Montenegro and Albania received support in training, guidance and in processing aromatic and medicinal plants.

**Almir Jasavić** from Plav is one of the producers of medicinal herbs and honey that received support also through the EU funded project.

Recently he was part of a TV show where he emphasised the significance of EU support in these types of project. Check out the interview [here](#).

Maps on locations of aromatic and medicinal plants are available online. For more information visit <https://aromaticmedicine-plants.me/> and <https://didc-map-tropoje.al/>.



### Informative events on disaster risk reduction

Informative events were held during June in Bar, Ulcinj and Budva on the topic of reducing the risk of disasters, with the aim of informing the population of these municipalities about the most common risks and adequate measures for prevention and remediation of the consequences of natural and other disasters, primarily floods and fires. Info events were organized in cooperation with representatives of the Bar Protection and Rescue Service, as well as the Directorate for Protection and Rescue. As part of the event, informative publications on topics related to protection and rescue in case of disasters and promotional material were distributed to the attendees. The activity was part of the project *Disasters do not know borders 2* implemented by FORS Montenegro and Prefecture of Shkodra.



### New activities of the project SOLUTION

The Centre for Ecotoxicological Research Montenegro, University of Tirana and Association Green Centre as part of activities of the project *Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution – SOLUTION* continued with cooperation in the capacity building activities. Namely, on June 14 2023 in Shkoder, the workshop *Results of invitro Bioassays for Water Quality and Comparison to Chemical Analysis* was organized and held by the environmental expert **Patrick Reynolds**. The main topics discussed were the Water Framework Directive and Priority Substances, Bioassay

Results versus Chemical Analysis and Chemical Analysis of Skadar/Shkoder Lake hotspots. The result of the project gained additional visibility through media reports. Check out the Voice of America report [here](#) and Europe House Montenegro article [here](#).



### Capacity building activities for beneficiaries

Capacity building activities continued as part of the ACCENT project. From 28 to 31 August a training was held on the topic *Motivation and self-confidence* and was led by Aleksandra Anđelić.



The topics of the training were the importance of self-confidence for success, internal and external factors for self-confidence, the difference between healthy and unhealthy self-confidence, pillars of self-confidence, the influence of labeling on self-confidence, motivation factors, managing priorities, what demotivates us, map of strengths, exercises and other similar topics.

### News on projects financed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

#### New jobs in agriculture

The final conference of the project *Creating employment in agriculture* was held in Podgorica on 27 July. The project was implemented by the Capital City Podgorica – Department for Entrepreneurship and Initiative for Agriculture Development of Kosovo - IADK. During the conference, it was pointed out that the total value of this project for beneficiaries in Montenegro and Kosovo amounted to EUR 350,000 of which the largest part of the funds was allocated for the purchase of equipment, the value of which was over EUR 75,000.

With this project, over 60 beneficiaries gained new knowledge and received equipment to improve their own production, over 5,000 people were informed about this project through media presentation and about 30 people provided themselves with a permanent source of income and increased employment, while over 250 people participated in the



improvement agricultural knowledge and skills. A successful fair of the users' agricultural products was also organized at the green market, where over 1,000 visitors had the opportunity to get to know and taste the user's products.



The participants of the conference assessed that the project brought good results and that as such it can be a model for some similar initiatives on this topic in the next period.

#### Equipment for health institutions

Within project *CARES 2*, the project partners FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo, continued with awareness raising activities and preventive examinations on both sides of the border. Moreover, the procurement procedure for the medicine equipment was finalized in Kosovo. The equipment will be delivered to the health institutions in Gjakova, Peja,

Istog, Klina and Decan, while the medicinal staff will be trained on usage of this equipment. Also, in the upcoming period additional equipment is expected to be delivered to the health institutions in Montenegro.



### Tourism hubs for better tourism project at its final stage

The project *Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas* entered its final stage of implementation. The Municipality of Andrijevica completed the foreseen project activities, where trainings for rural households were organized and additional equipment was procured for mountaineer hut in Montenegro. The Krivi do hut became a touristic attraction and part of tourism offer which is also being promoted by tourism agencies. In Kosovo, similar activities were conducted and the works in the hut in Bjeshket e Belegut are completed. The new website of MAA „Shkelzen Haradinaj” who will be managing the mountaineer hut has also been launched and can be accessed [here](#).



### News on projects financed under the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania

#### *No borders for work!*

In order to improve the socially inclusive economic development of the border regions of Fushe Arrez, Malesi e Madhe and the areas of Cetinje and Podgorica, the project *No borders for work!* is being implemented. This two-year project is implemented by a partner consortium led by the Old Royal Capital Cetinje, ProAct Hub, Institute for Sustainable Policies and Fushe Arrez Municipality. The total value of the project is 428,085.60 EUR and it aims to improve employability and social inclusion among young people, women, long-term unemployed persons and PWDs in the sectors of rural tourism and catering services, circular/green economy initiatives, agriculture, and inclusive social entrepreneurship. One of the specific goals of the project is to improve the competitiveness of cross-

border business through capacity building for the sustainable use of local resources and market needs and perspectives for continued employment and self-employment in the targeted sectors in the area.



Project partners started with the implementation of activities after the signing of the cooperation agreement that will improve the situation in the target region in the area of employment, with a focus on youth and other social categories.

### Joint Environmental Protection Action - JEPA

Municipality of Gusinje and Municipality of Puka are implementing the project *Joint Environmental Protection Action – JEPA*, with a total value of 300,420 EUR, which will last 18 months. The aim of the project is to promote sustainable development in the border area, to reduce pollution and increase the valorisation of integrated environmental protection.



The project will improve the waste management system and environmental protection, through technical improvement of personnel capacity, local waste management units and through increasing students' knowledge and skills on integrated environmental protection, circular economy and waste management.



The project partners started with project activities and held a media presentation of the project activities in Gusinje in June and used this opportunity to sign the partnership agreement and inform all stakeholders on the upcoming activities.

### Skills for Jobs Albania - Montenegro

In order to facilitate access to the market for youth and women, the Foundation Business Start-Up Centre Bar partnered with Chamber of Economy of Montenegro and Albanian Investment Development Agency are implementing the project *Skills for Sustainable Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth of Cross-Border Region of Albania and Montenegro - Skills for Jobs Albania – Montenegro*. The value of this two-year project is 290,000 EUR and the goal is to increase the professional skills and competence of unemployed persons in the border region, so that they meet the needs for employment in the tourism, ICT and hospitality sectors.



The project partners organised the first conference on employment opportunities and trends in the labour market in the border area that took place in Bar. During the conference, labour market trends, limitations and opportunities in Albania and Montenegro were discussed as well as support programmes for young people and women, skills and competences for future employment and young people's approach to entrepreneurship were discussed.

### New Reality of the Heritage Sites

The project *The New Reality of Heritage Sites* aims to contribute to the development of tourism, culture and heritage in Montenegro and Albania and is implemented by the Municipality of Bar in cooperation with Albanian partners, the Municipality of Tropoja and the Foundation for Local Autonomy and Governance (FLAG).



The project will last 30 months and the value of the project is 533,024.94 EUR. The specific goal of the project is to enhance, widely recognize and

promote the cross-border cultural heritage of Bar and Tropoja through the creation of a modern tourist presentation.

The project envisages the restoration/revitalization and adaptation of cultural heritage sites in Bar and Tropoja, such as the Old Town Bar and the Bajram Curri Museum, as well as the creation of a new tourist route and a new tourist offer through an augmented reality system that will include cultural sites in Bar and Tropoja. As a result of the project, training of relevant stakeholders from Bar and Tropoja in the area of adaptation and reuse of cultural heritage objects, interpretation of heritage sites and presentation of new tourist offer to the wider population is foreseen. The project started with activities, the first being the organisation of a kick off conference and the signature of the partnership agreement between partners.



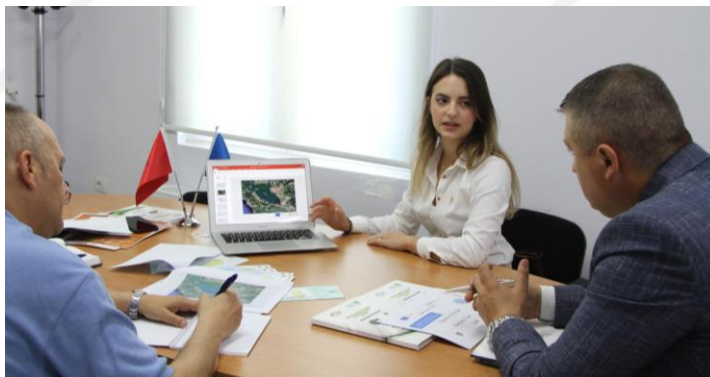
### Building Smart Forests

The Foundation for Local Autonomy and Governance (FLAG) from Albania, in partnership with the municipalities of Bar and Shkoder, are implementing the project *Building smart forests*. As a result of the project, the creation of an operational plan for the installation of photovoltaic sensors for the timely detection of fires, the procurement and implementation of training for the management of the *Smart Forests* technology, which is used for extinguishing forest fires, are foreseen as key activities.



In addition, the procurement of special drones for monitoring the cross-border region, installation of a forest fire detection system, as well as the creation and implementation of the Joint Management Plan for the risk of large fires and fire protection are also envisaged. Special cross-border joint trainings to improve the capacity of firefighters to respond to natural disasters will also be held. Additionally, there will be training sessions aimed at facilitating better collaboration among residents in the cross-border region, the creation of a volunteer network comprising

individuals from the local community who will be trained and equipped to respond to natural disasters, and the acquisition of essential equipment. The project partners already started with meetings with stakeholders, among others with the National Forestry Agency of Albania, local NGOs and Protected Areas Agency.



Check out the promotional video for the project [here](#).

### Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed - a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The project *Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed - a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve* is being implemented by Development, Education and Networking (EDEN centre), Environment Programme - EnvPro, National agency of protected areas in Albania and Public enterprise National Parks of Montenegro. The goal of the project is to contribute to strengthening the protection of cross-border ecosystems, sustainable socio-economic development of the Skadar/Shkodra lake basin and promote good neighbourly relations through harmonization in accordance with the conditions of the UNESCO programme *Man and the Biosphere (MAB)*.



The projected duration of the project is 30 months, while the total value is 453,096 EUR. Through the specific objectives of the project, joint harmonization of conditions for the nomination of the Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed as a UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) will be encouraged, while at the same time biodiversity goals and monitoring of the ecological status and threats within the potential UNESCO TBR will be improved. As an outcome of this project, Montenegro and Albania will submit a nomination form for the Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed (SLW) for the UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR), interested parties and the local population will be trained to participate and support the SLW nomination for the UNESCO TBR, while the Regional Agency for Protected Areas in Shkodra and the Office for National Parks in Podgorica will be equipped in order for them to increase the frequency and scope of conservation and monitoring.

## News on projects financed under the 3<sup>rd</sup> CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

### Culture heritage - Act SMART, save water!

The project *Culture heritage – Act SMART, save water!* is implemented by Kosovo Development Centre – KDC, Water Supply Company Vodovod "Bistrica", LLC Bijelo Polje and Regional Water Company " Hidrodrini" – JSC Peja. The project aims to improve natural resource management in the cross-border area of Montenegro and Kosovo. The total value of the project is 523,577.60 EUR, and during 24 months of implementation, the project will result in the improvement of water management in the municipalities of Peja and Bjelo Polje, as well as increasing the knowledge and awareness of the population about the need and importance of conservation of water resources. Kick off meetings and press conferences have been held in order to mark the beginning of project activities.



Check out the video from the conference [here](#).

### New Environment Revitalization Approach - NERA

The municipality of Tuzi, in partnership with the municipality of Peja, is implementing the project *New Environment Revitalization Approach – NERA* with a total value of 479,027.23 EUR. During 22 months of implementation, the project will contribute to environmental protection through a strategically oriented approach in local communities in Montenegro and Kosovo. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of local actors to establish an efficient model of solid waste management in these municipalities based on citizens participatory approach. In order to mark the start of the project activities a press conference was organized in Tuzi on 27 June.



Follow the project [page](#) for more information.

## Young NEETs: new opportunities for work and increased employability - "UNEETED"

In order to improve the social position of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in selected municipalities in Montenegro and Kosovo by increasing their employability and connecting them with potential employers, Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), Chamber of Economy of Montenegro and Municipality of Mojkovac are implementing the project *Young NEETs: new opportunities for work and increased employability – "UNEETED"*. This project, with a total value of 206,250.56 EUR, started in March 2023 and will be implemented for 24 months. It envisages the implementation of comprehensive research among NEET youth in order to develop youth policies, networking of NEET youth and various stakeholders and promotion of labour force mobility through a special platform, improvement of knowledge and skills of NEET youth in selected municipalities. The pilot intervention will lead to an increase employability and youth employment, as well as increasing the capacity of local communities and local actors in understanding the needs and potential of NEET youth in order to improve their position in society.

### FAST FACTS - NEET

NEET refers to young people who are not in education, employment or training. The proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is a well-established indicator that has been regularly published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) since the late 1990s.

## Skills for Sustainable Employment in the Cross-Border Region of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo - No Borders!

The project *Skills for Sustainable Employment in the Cross-Border Region of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo – No Borders!* aims to contribute to increasing the professional skills and competence of unemployed youth and women in the cross-border region in order to meet the needs for employment in the tourism and hospitality sector. The project worth 262,796.22 EUR and is being implemented by Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Kosovo, Regional Business Centre Berane and Education, Training and Research Institute – ETRI.

The project will enable the development of self-employment/entrepreneurship skills among young people and women in the cross-border region in the field of agriculture, gastronomy and traditional crafts. The project will result in the establishment of a cross-border brand for the promotion of local products and services, with the aim of improving competitiveness, promoting self-employment as well as preconditions for further employment in priority sectors in the cross-border region. The project will last 24 months and will cover 15 municipalities.

## Cultural Renaissance from Skadar Lake to Kosovo - TIME TRAVEL

The project *The Cultural Renaissance from Skadar Lake to Kosovo – TIME TRAVEL* will contribute to improving the quality and diversification of the tourism offer based on natural and cultural heritage in the cross-border rural areas of Kosovo and Montenegro. The leading partner of this

project is the Community Development Fund (CDF) from Kosovo, Municipality of Klina is the partner from the Kosovo side, while the partners from the Montenegrin side are the Center for Sustainable Tourism Initiatives and the National Tourism Organization of Montenegro (NTO). The project began with its implementation in March 2023 and will last two years, while the total amount of the project is 404,235.73 EUR. The specific goal of the project is to develop a knowledge model for the preservation, valorisation, interpretation and integration of heritage sites along natural heritage trails into one comprehensive offer of natural and cultural tourism and to jointly promote them. This will be achieved through the formation of a cross-border tourist cluster that will connect 10 sites of cultural heritage in Kosovo and Montenegro and will be part of the thematic tourist offer "TIME TRAVEL" which will be jointly promoted through a marketing campaign.

Check out basic information of the project in the NTO website [here](#).

## TIME TRAVEL

To contribute to improvement of the quality and diversification of the tourism offer building on natural and cultural heritage at cross-border rural areas of KOS and MNE



### Quick overview:

Project title: The Cultural Renaissance from Skadar Lake to Kosovo – TIME TRAVEL

Donors: Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Kosovo\* 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

Project value: 391,000.00 EUR

Implementation period: March 2023 - February 2025

Partners: Community Development Fund (CDF), Centre for Sustainable Tourism Initiatives - CSTI, National Tourism Organisation of Montenegro, Municipality of Klina

## Cross-border Green Deal

The successful partnership between FORS Montenegro and the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI Kosovo), now strengthened by the support of the Municipality of Berane, continues in the field of improving environmental protection in the cross-border region between Montenegro and Kosovo through the project *Cross-border Green Deal*. The 493,683.21 EUR worth project, which will last two years, will help strengthen the capacities of institutions and people in the cross-border region to improve solid waste management and air pollution control, while at the same time working to raise public awareness in the cross-border region about the importance of environmental protection, improving solid waste management and importance of recycling. The expected results of the project are the improvement of the technical and personnel capacities of environmental companies and institutions in the target region for solid waste management and air pollution control, familiarizing them with EU good practice in solid waste management, providing recommendations for improving solid waste management at the local level and improving cooperation between stakeholders in the field of environment from Montenegro and Kosovo.

## Evocation and Attraction of Cultural Heritage - Christian Antiquity and Turkish Bath for Cultural Tourism

The project *Evocation and Attraction of Cultural Heritage – Christian Antiquity and Turkish Bath for Cultural Tourism* will contribute to increasing the economic competitiveness of the area by increasing the cultural tourism potential of the area. This two-year project with a total value of 434,272.10 EUR is being carried out by PI Polimski Museum Berane and Marimangat e Pejës - Rock climbing Association from the Kosovo side. The project aims to contribute to the development of culture and tourism through the joint valorisation and promotion of the cultural heritage of this area, which will encourage an increase in the



number of tourists and an increase in the income of local communities. In addition, the project focuses on the application of modern scientific tools for the purpose of study, conservation and valorisation, which drastically improves the conventional practice in the process of conservation and promotion of cultural goods. Also, one of the goals of the project is the introduction of 3D technology for the processing, preservation, presentation of selected data on immovable cultural heritage, thus providing a solid platform for further research, development and raising awareness of the importance of cultural heritage for society.

### **C.L.O.S.E.R. - Culture-Led Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Revitalisation**

The Kosovo Foundation for Cultural Heritage Without Borders, in partnership with the Municipality of Bar is implementing a two-year project *C.L.O.S.E.R. – Culture-Led Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Revitalisation*. The total value of the project is 400,000 EUR. The project will improve the well-being of the community in the cross-border region through the creation of culture-based development models, and at the same time, it strives for the cross-border values of cultural heritage to be widely recognized, accepted and promoted. The most significant expected results of the project are the adaptation and putting into use of the cultural heritage site in Kosovo that will be used as the Creative Hub of the Western Economic Region, as well as the revitalization of the old roads of the Old Town of Bar through cleaning, marking and minor conservation works. In addition, relevant stakeholders from cross-border municipalities, including youth, will have the opportunity to increase their capacities in the field of cultural heritage management, heritage site interpretation and tourism management.

### **Turning our villages into tourism destinations**

The municipality of Peja, as a leading partner, in cooperation with the Regional Development Agency West (RDA-West) from Kosovo and the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, will implement the project *Turning our villages into tourism destinations* in the next two years. The total value of the project is 456,106.76 EUR, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the improvement of the scope, quality and visibility of tourism with the aspect of valorisation of cultural and natural heritage and values. The specific goal of the project is to support rural tourism by developing the tourist offer in the villages, which will be achieved by increasing the capacity for rural tourism, by developing and promoting the tourist offer in the villages.

### **In Employment, Education, Training - IN EET**

In order to contribute to the social inclusion of vulnerable population groups, as well as their access to the labour market, NGO Juventas from Montenegro and NGO Labyrinth from Kosovo are implementing the project *In Employment, Education, Training - IN EET*.



Through this two-year project with a total value of 209,448.10 EUR, the partners will aim to increase the employability of young people in risk groups by providing competitive skills and work experience, contributing to the social reintegration of prisoners and ex-prisoners through economic empowerment, as well as strengthening the capacity of social protection institutions at work with vulnerable groups. As a result of this project, young people at risk in both countries will be economically empowered and will gain work experience, ex-prisoners in both countries will acquire skills and have access to the labour market, while at the same time social policy and social protection institutions from the cross-border region will establish cooperation and strengthen their skills in the development of social policies in order to activate end users. The project partners started with activities and published the call for interest for youth to participate in paid professional development/training programme that will last for 2 to 4 months. It is expected that 40 young people will participate and cooperate with different employers.

### **Tourism for the Future**

The two-year project *Tourism for the Future* with a total value of 427,507.70 EUR is implemented by the NGO Prishtina REA as a leading partner in partnership with the Mountaineering Association "Đeravica" from Kosovo and Montenegrin partners, the Municipality of Kolašin and the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. The goal of the project is to contribute to the development of cross-border sustainable tourism through networking, introduction of the green key and eco standards, improvement of competitiveness and joint promotion.



Through its specific objectives, the project strives to increase the sustainable and effective demonstration of the management of the ecotourism system in the cross-border area with a focus on the environment, socio-economic issues, quality, health and safety, as well as on standards and capacities in accordance with international eco-labels. Also, one of the specific goals is to increase social and economic benefits for the local community and reduce negative impacts, in terms of employment of the local population, support of local initiatives and opportunities for local entrepreneurs to complement the eco development system. The project held its kick off conference in Peja on 31 August where upcoming activities were presented.

### IPA III Cross-border cooperation programme Montenegro - Albania promoted in Podgorica

Head of Joint Technical Secretariat, **Sanja Todorović**, presented the IPA III Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Albania within the framework of the "EUSAIR Financial Dialogue" meeting that was held in Podgorica on 20 July. The meeting brought together representatives of Montenegrin ministries involved in the implementation of the Strategy through four thematic pillars and representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs in charge of coordinating national IPAs and territorial cooperation programmes.



The priorities of national IPA programmes and programmes of European territorial cooperation coincide with the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and it was assessed that it is necessary to create better synergy and recognize opportunities for the preparation of concrete projects on time.

### IPA CBC Programmes structures take part at CBIB+ Regional CBC Consultative Forum

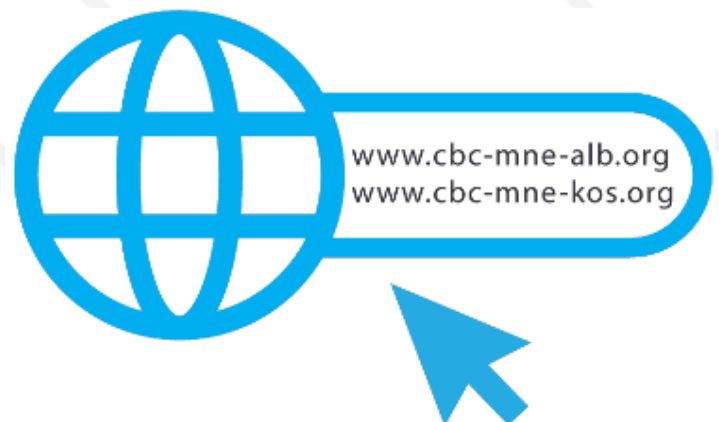
The IPA CBC structures of the programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo participated at *the Regional CBC Consultative Forum* organised by CBIB+. The aim of the event was to facilitate communication and information sharing among IPA-IPA CBC stakeholders and foster dialogue in relation to the implementation of the programmes.



The objective of the 9th Forum was to gather the IPA CBC community and engage in discussions related to regional matters. These discussions encompassed various topics, including the progress of IPA II CBC programmes, principles and modifications associated with IPA III CBC, as well as a fresh perspective on communication and visibility strategies, along with other subjects related to CBC programmes. The event gathered more than 70 stakeholders from the region.



During the event, Operating structures of both programmes had the opportunity to present the achievements so far under the IPA II and share with other regional stakeholders the challenges but also good practices experienced during the implementation.



»» Operating structures of the programmes (click on the icon to visit the website)



Ministry  
of European Affairs



Montenegro  
Ministry of Finance  
Directorate for Finance and Contracting  
of the EU Assistance Funds



Republika e Kosovës  
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo  
Qeveria - Vlada - Government  
Ministria e Pushtetit Lokal  
Ministarstvo lokalne samouprave  
Ministry of Local Government



**JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE IPA  
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**  
MONTENEGRO - ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO - KOSOVO 2014-2020

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Head Office**  
Address: Beogradska 17, 81 000 Podgorica, Montenegro  
Phone: + 382 20 240 784; + 382 20 240 631;

**Sanja TODOROVIC**  
Head of Joint Technical Secretariat  
E-mail: [sanja.todorovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:sanja.todorovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)  
**Maja RADOVIC**  
Financial and Procurement Officer  
E-mail: [maja.radovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:maja.radovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)  
**Nikola DJONOVIC**  
Project Officer  
E-mail: [nikola.djonovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:nikola.djonovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)  
**Almir CAUSEVIC**  
Project Officer  
E-mail: [almir.causevic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:almir.causevic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)  
**Petar BELADA**  
Administrative Assistant  
E-mail: [petar.belada@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:petar.belada@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Antenna Office Shkoder**  
Address: Rruga Ndoc Çoba, Nr 1 Shkoder, Albania  
Phone: + 355 22 80 20 80;

**Nersada MANDIJA**  
Antenna Project Officer  
E-mail: [nersada.mandija@saspac.gov.al](mailto:nersada.mandija@saspac.gov.al)

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Antenna Office Prishtina**  
Address: str. Tirana, entrance (D), 5th floor, no. 53, (complex PRIME), 10 000 Prishtina, Kosovo

**Gazmir RACI**  
Antenna Project Officer  
E-mail: [gazmir.raci@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:gazmir.raci@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)

[www.cbc-mne-alb.org](http://www.cbc-mne-alb.org) | [www.cbc-mne-kos.org](http://www.cbc-mne-kos.org)



@cbc.mne.alb



@cbc.mne.kos



This project is funded by  
the European Union