



Adriatic IPA Cross Border Cooperation 2007-2013



*Annual Report
on the implementation of the
IPA Adriatic Cross-Border
Cooperation Programme
according to Art. 112 of the EC Regulation n.
718/2008 as amended by EC Regulation n. 80/2010*

SUMMARY

Prepared by the Joint Technical Secretariat

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IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Indicative table of the Programme

Community Instrument	Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) Component II “Cross-Border Cooperation”
Area of intervention	<ol style="list-style-type: none">NUTS level 3 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along land borders between the Community and the beneficiary countries;NUTS level 3 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas along maritime borders between the Community and the beneficiary countries separated, as a general rule, by a maximum of 150 kilometres, taking into account potential adjustments where needed to ensure the coherence and continuity of the cooperation action.
Denomination of the Programme	IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
Period of Programming	2007-2013 (Reg.EC 718/2007)
Number CCI	2007CB 16 IPO 001
Decisions of Commission	Dec. EC n° C(2008)1073 of 25/03/2008
Duration of Programme	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2013
Start of admissibility expenses	For Final Beneficiaries from EU Countries from 01/01/2007. For Beneficiary from non-EU State from the date of signature of the Financing Agreement between the relevant Country and the European Commission, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Croatia 1st December 2008;- Bosnia Herzegovina 20th February 2009;- Serbia 16th April 2009;- Albania 18th June 2009;- Montenegro 22nd June 2009.
Period of assumption	25/03/2008
Period of payment closure	31/12/2016
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Certifying Authority: <i>Responsible:</i> <i>Address:</i> <i>Tel:</i> <i>Fax:</i> <i>e-mail:</i>	Abruzzo Region – Service Certifying Authority <i>Dr. Giuseppina Camilli</i> <i>Palazzo Silone, Via L. Da Vinci, 1- 67100 L'Aquila (Italy)</i> <i>+39-0862-363339</i> <i>+39-0862-</i> giuseppina.camilli@regione.abruzzo.it

**Audit Authority:***Responsible:**Address:**Tel:**Fax:**e-mail*

Abruzzo Region – “Servizio Ispettivo Contabile”

*Dr. Enzo de Marco**Palazzo Silone, Via L. Da Vinci, 1- 67100 L'Aquila (Italy)**+39-0862**+39-0862**enzo.demarco@regione.abruzzo.it***Funds involved***IPA funds which include an ERDF contribution***Costs of Programme****(2007 – 2009):***Total cost:***€ 106,401,337***Community contribution:***€ 90,441,137***National Public contribution:***€ 15,960,200**

The annual report must be approved by the European Commission (expected by September 2010)



Programme Background

On the basis of long experience gained from three previous programming cycles, concerning Cross-Border Cooperation between Member States and neighboring candidate/potential candidate countries, the new EU financial framework 2007-2013 provides for a single instrument approach through the new Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1085/2006 which establishes an instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance - the IPA Regulation - replaces the previously existing legal basis in the pre-Accession area. As such it constitutes a framework regulation.

The IPA instrument seeks to provide targeted assistance to countries which are Candidates or Potential Candidates for membership of the EU rationalizing Pre-Accession Assistance by replacing the various instruments which previously existed for the assistance that are Phare/ISPA/SAPARD/CARDS/Turkey Instruments.

IPA prepares, *inter alia* Candidate for the implementation of Structural and Cohesion Funds and Rural Development on accession, by specifically supporting institution building and introducing procedures as close as possible to the Structural Funds.

The five IPA components are detailed in Art. 3 (a) of the IPA framework Regulation: (I) Transition Assistance and Institution Building, (II) Cross-Border Cooperation, (III) Regional Development, (IV) Human Resources Development, (V) Rural Development.

The first two components apply to all countries. Additionally, Candidate Countries also benefit from components III, IV and V.

Cross-Border Cooperation along borders between Candidate Countries/Potential Candidate Countries and between them and the Member States is supported by the IPA Component II (the CBC component).

Thus, the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013 is supported by IPA Component II. It is financed by IPA funds which include an ERDF contribution (Art. 21 of the Structural Funds Regulation 1083/2006) and is governed by the IPA legal structure (IPA Framework Regulation No 1085/2006 and the IPA Implementing Regulation No 718/2007).

On the 25th March 2008, with its Decision n. C(2008) 1073, the European Commission has adopted the Operational Programme "IPA Adriatic CBC".

The global objective of the present Programme was identified as:

Strengthening of sustainable development capabilities of the Adriatic region through a concerted strategy of action between the partners of the eligible territories

The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013 supports projects in the following three thematic priorities:

- Priority 1 – Economic, Social and Institutional Cooperation.
- Priority 2 – Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention.
- Priority 3 – Accessibility and Networks



The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013 is supervised by a Joint Monitoring Committee. The JMC is composed of a balanced representation of participating countries, including representatives both of central and regional/local governments. Each Participating Country has then nominated its own representatives, and European Commission as an observer.

The participating States have appointed the Abruzzo Region Servizio Attività Internazionali (located in L'Aquila, Italy) to act as Managing Authority (MA) and to host the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS). The Joint Technical Secretariat, focal point of the Programme's implementation, is located in L'Aquila, Italy.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME IN 2009

Therefore it is clear that the carried out activities and the corresponding expenses starting from the 25st March 2008 and until the 31st December 2009 were related exclusively to Priority 4 (Technical Assistance for realization of the Programme) and were not interested in specific projects of the first 3 Priorities, since the 1st Call for Proposals for the three Priorities was launched on the 1st August 2009 and closed on the 29th October 2009.

In 2009, two meetings of the JMC were held :on April 1st 2009 and on May 19th 2009 during these meeting the JMC has approved the documents of the first calls for ordinary projects.

To guarantee the publicity of the activities and goals of the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, different meetings and seminars were organised in the Participant Countries, with a large participation of citizens and stakeholders, to describe the programme and its objectives.

During the 2009, the "Description of management and control systems" ex art. 115 Reg. (EC) n. 718/2007 has been draft by the Managing Authority.

The Joint Technical Secretariat has been established on 1/01/2009.

During the first semester of 2009, the JTS has prepared all the documents related to the 1st Calls for proposals (Application Pack and Applicants' Manual) and the format for the assessment of the submitted proposals.

During the period of the calls, the JTS has even supported potential Beneficiaries with the organization of workshops in the different involved countries and with a dedicated help-desk which answered by phone and email and through the publication of the Frequently Asked Questions on the Programme website to all the questions submitted by potential Beneficiaries.

After the closure of the Calls, the JTS has received 282 project proposals.

In order to strengthen its administrative capacity, the JTS's staff has joined during the 2009 several Interact seminars on state aid, public procurement, first level control, strategic projects and in territorial cooperation project management and monitoring.

Communication and information activities

A **Manual of the visual identity** was produced in order to make Programme documents recognizable, uniform and coherent. To this purpose a **Programme logo** has been designed, declined in the proper forms and accompanied by a **slogan** summarizing the Programme key-messages "**Let's grow up together**".

Draft and publication of information materials as: brochure and newsletter;

Publication of the IPA Adriatic Guidelines which is an handbook illustrating requisites and criteria for being granted the funding;



Realization of the **Programme website** www.adriaticpacbc.org with institutional information on the Programme and its implementation and with different sections for project Beneficiaries (partner search, how to apply to the 1st Call for proposals, FAQs).

A continuous press office activities have been directed to the selected target for the diffusion of information concerning the Programme area (European, national, regional, specialized press, TV, the Internet, satellite channels) and thanks to the preparation of press releases and press folders journalists and, by means of them, the public opinion has received detailed, proper and transparent information on the Programme and on the launch of the 1st Calls for proposals for Priority 1, 2 and 3.

Three Workshops were organized in Pescara (9th October 2009), in Otranto (11th December 2009) and in Corfu (9th September 2009), in order to better communicate the Programme objectives at local level and to support local operators to actively participate in the Programme.

Participation to **COMPA 2009**, which is the European Exhibition of Public Communication and Services to the Citizen and Business recognised as the **foremost event** for Administrations, Corporations, Universities, experts, and operators committed to modernising the Public Administration, increasing the efficiency of services, and improving the quality of relations with the public. In such occasion, the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme has received the award for the "Best practice for a Multiannual Communication Plan".

Modification of the Operational Programme

Following the establishment of the new provinces and the need to add the financial tables regarding the years 2010 and 2011, it is necessary to modify the Operational Programme(OP).

The substantial modification of the Operational Programme that will become necessary concerning the change :

1. chap. 1 § 1-3 "Programme Area" to include the two new Provinces of Fermo and of Barletta-Andria-Trani for Italy, as they fall into the eligible area of the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme;
2. chap. 6 "Financial Provision", as with reference note n. 08515 of 11.09.09 of the EC - Directorate-General-Territorial Cooperation, the EC, according to art. 9 of the reg. 1085/2006, to art.21 of the reg. 1083/2006 and to the MIFF updating, asked to send the new financial allocation for 2010-2011 period of the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, before being approved by the JMC.
3. chap. 6 "National co-financing" it refers both to public and private co-financing.

The OP modification has been approved by the JMC on the 1st December 2009 .

The OP emended was approved by European Commission on 30.06.2010 with decision n. C(2010)3780 .