

IPA CBC PROGRAMME  
2014-2020  
**SERBIA - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**



2014-2020



*Cross-border Programme*  
**Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina**

This Programme is funded by the EU



**T**he Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) is a successor of IPA as a unique pre-accession instrument of the European Union established according to the European Union Council Regulation no. 231/2014 from 11 March, 2014.

By this instrument EU continues to provide a legal framework for providing financial assistance to the candidate and potential candidate countries in their efforts to encourage political, economic and institutional reforms with the final goal of full membership in the European Union.

## Summary of the CBC Programme Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014 – 2020

Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014-2020 is implemented under the framework of the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and is the result of joint planning efforts made by the governments and other stakeholders of the two countries. IPA II supports cross-border cooperation with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations, fostering European Union integration and promoting socio-economic development.

The Programme analyses the socio-economic situation of the border region, sets out a common strategy for remedying problems identified and formulates joint thematic priorities for development. The present programme is based on a thorough review of the challenges and specifics of the programming area.

## Map and the Description of the Programme Area

The eligible territory in the Republic of Serbia covers 15.370 km<sup>2</sup> with 1.064.198 inhabitants and the eligible territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers 16.742,34 km<sup>2</sup> with 1.706.214 inhabitants. The total number of municipalities in the programme area is 31 on the Serbian side and 67 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Serbia - Districts:

Zlatiborski, Kolubarski, Mačvanski and Sremski.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina – Local Self-Government Units:

Brčko District of BiH, Gradačac, Doboj Istok, Gračanica, Srebrenik, Čelić, Lopare, Ugljevik, Donji Žabar, Domaljevac-Šamac, Modriča, Odžak, Osmaci, Banovići, Bijeljina, Brod, Bratunac, Han Pijesak, Kalesija, Kladanj, Lukavac, Milići, Orašje, Pelagićevo, Petrovo, Sapna, Srebrenica, Šamac, Šekovići, Teočak, Tuzla, Vlasenica, Vukosavlje, Zvornik, Živinice, Trnovo RS, Istočna Ilidža, Istočno Novo Sarajevo, Vogošća, Istočni Stari Grad, Vareš, Visoko, Fojnica, Višegrad, Rogatica, Sokolac, Pale, Pale Prača, Novo Goražde, Rudo, Čajniče, Goražde, Foča Ustikolina, Foča, Kalinovik, Trnovo, Hadžići, Ilidža, Novi Grad Sarajevo, Stari Grad Sarajevo, Ilijaš, Breza, Kiseljak, Kreševo, Olovo, Sarajevo Centar, Novo Sarajevo.

The total surface of the eligible area is 32.112,34 km<sup>2</sup> with total of 2.770.412 inhabitants. The total border length between the two countries is 370,9 km of which 109,9 km is land border and 261 km is a blue border (rivers Drina and Sava). Along the length of the border there are fifteen border crossing points. The number of the border crossings is sufficient, but the quality of infrastructure and capacity need improvement and modernization.

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The programme area consists of three highly diversified geographic parts. The northern part is a fertile plain; the central part of the area is hilly while the southern part is mountainous. In both countries the road network in the eligible territories is more developed in the north, leaving the more isolated communities of the south with a less than satisfactory road network. The rail network is significantly underdeveloped. There are two fully functioning and well equipped international airports in BiH (Tuzla and Sarajevo) and ex-military airport Ponikve in Serbia now serving civil purposes.

The programme area is facing significant challenges in development of environmental infrastructure. The water supply is not efficient. Only minor proportion of households is connected to wastewater treatment facilities. Solid waste management shows significant improvements in the past years; nevertheless further efforts are needed in primary solid waste separation and recycling.

The economy of the entire programme territory is underperforming due to the region's marginalization and instability in 1990s, low level of investments, the big industrial giants that have collapsed over the years, and the unsuccessful process of privatization leading to major job losses which resulted in limited economic expansion. The world economic crisis in 2008/2009 worsened off the already difficult situation in the region's economy. A recovery has occurred and rebuilding of economy is under way.

SME development is a major pillar of both governments' policies as a means for achieving the dynamic levels of economic expansion needed in the eligible area to reach economic parity with its European neighbours. However, most are micro enterprises, family concerns, mainly shops and small services, thus they make no significant contribution to the overall economy and offer very limited employment opportunities.

The programme area has great potentials for tourism development. The available natural resources, potential for development of niche tourism (i.e. adventure sports, rural tourism) and connectivity with other economic branches represent a solid basis for tourism efforts.

Education facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels exist in the programme area in both countries.

The cultural heritage of both countries can be classified as heterogeneous, including a wide range of prehistoric and ancient, medieval, Ottoman and modern times. Through this CBC programme, this cultural wealth may become an asset by developing cultural awareness, promoting new initiatives in the institutional and cultural spheres, establishing partnerships with other sectors and international partnerships, and giving a boost to the development of values, conservation and revitalization of cultural heritage.

The similarities in socio-economic situations and challenges at both sides of the border provide a good basis for launching joint project initiatives which will demonstrate genuine cross-border impact. The areas which indicate possibility of joint initiatives are above all joint development of labour, exploration of tourism and natural resources and further efforts in social integration of vulnerable groups.



## Programme Objectives and Thematic Priorities

### Overall objective of the Programme is:

Enhancement of socio-economic development in the cross-border area between the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the implementation of targeted and concrete actions, based on comparative advantages of the programme area and the joint, efficient use of resources.



The specific objectives and types of activities are defined per thematic priority as follows:

<b>Thematic Priority 1:</b> Promoting employment, labour mobility, social and cultural inclusion across the border	
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> Enhancing the employability of labour force, and increasing the employment opportunities	<b>Specific Objective 2:</b> Fostering social and economic inclusion
<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New products and services, as well as industrial and commercial processes, thanks to transfer of knowledge and innovativeness, result in new sustainable employment opportunities in the cross-border area</li> <li>• Increased competitiveness in the commercialisation of products and services by a common use of resources in strategic sectors (e.g. wood manufacturing, food processing and metal works)</li> <li>• Unemployed persons obtained new practical skills in real working environments, based on the labour market demand and similarities at both sides of the border</li> </ul>	<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New sustainable social and health services are developed and/or the existing ones are upgraded by cross-border exchange, cooperation and synergies, increasing the efficiency in service delivery and the number of services' beneficiaries</li> <li>• The employability and entrepreneurship abilities of vulnerable groups are improved through joint cross-border efforts including the promotion of sustainable social entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Sustainable perspectives for social integration of vulnerable groups are created through joint initiatives at both sides of the border</li> </ul>
<b>Indicative List of Activities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint business development activities</li> <li>• Joint development of new products and services</li> <li>• Networking of businesses with external innovators, researchers and graduates</li> <li>• Branding of products and services</li> <li>• Certification and improvement of quality systems</li> <li>• Development and implementation of vocational training programmes for answering concrete and proven needs</li> <li>• Practical training in real working environment (public or private operators)</li> <li>• Small infrastructure works and procurement of equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of new social and health schemes, and/or restructuring of the current ones based on innovative approaches, methods and processes</li> <li>• Supporting advisory services for vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Organization of cultural events aimed at the enhancement of social integration</li> <li>• Development of new or upgrading of existing social entrepreneurship initiatives</li> <li>• Targeted support for the promotion of entrepreneurial skills amongst women, youth and disabled</li> <li>• Assistance for the establishment of new business initiatives for vulnerable groups including social enterprises</li> <li>• Small infrastructure works and procurement of supplies</li> </ul>

<b>Thematic Priority 2:</b> Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaption and mitigation, risk prevention and management	
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> Improving sustainable environmental planning and promotion of biodiversity	<b>Specific Objective 2:</b> Improving the management system for emergency intervention
<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effectiveness of public services and practices in relation to solid waste and wastewater management are enhanced through joint initiatives at both sides of the border</li> <li>• The protection of the Drina and Sava river catchment areas and the promotion of their biodiversity is fostered</li> </ul>	<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity for preparedness, prevention and response of all organisations/ institutions in the protection and rescue system in the cross-border area are strengthened on long term</li> </ul>
<b>Indicative List of Activities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading of physical facilities and equipment of public utility companies</li> <li>• Upgrading of the existing procedures of the public services dealing with solid waste and wastewater management, including public utility companies and environmental inspection</li> <li>• Analysis and awareness raising on water pollution sources such as in agricultural practices</li> <li>• Informing and building capacities of citizens and companies for sustainable conduct in solid waste and water protection</li> <li>• Creating administrative and spatial conditions for the sustainable management of solid waste and wastewater</li> <li>• Training events and capacity building of public utility companies staff</li> <li>• Cleaning and remediation of unsanitary landfills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and capacity building of civil protection and other emergency services, particularly on flood and post flood situations, according to international standards</li> <li>• Small infrastructure works and procurement of equipment</li> <li>• Exchange of experiences and best practice, and networking</li> <li>• Development and/or upgrading of the planning, action, information, coordination and notification systems in relation to the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and emergency management in central and/or local level</li> <li>• Raising the awareness and capacity of the local communities to respond in emergency situations</li> </ul>



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Thematic Priority 3: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> Increasing the contribution of tourism to the socio-economic development of the programme area	<b>Specific Objective 2:</b> Strengthening the cultural identity of the programme area
<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The offer and quality of tourism products and services is furthered based on joint efforts and initiatives</li> <li>New sustainable employment and business opportunities in the tourism sector opened by joint cross-border efforts</li> </ul>	<b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable cultural and sport exchanges across the border are fostered</li> <li>The historical and natural heritage and traditions of the cross-border area are better preserved</li> </ul>
Indicative List of Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networking, structuring, positioning for new tourism and services</li> <li>Establishment of cross-border tourism clusters</li> <li>Promotion, communication and publicity activities</li> <li>Organization of events and campaigns</li> <li>Exchange and transfer of experiences</li> <li>Training and capacity building of tourism employees and/or unemployed</li> <li>Small infrastructure works and procurement of equipment</li> <li>Promotion and protection of natural resources and protected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization of events, symposiums, workshops etc.</li> <li>Specific professional interventions aimed at protection and promotion of the historical heritage as well as cultural traditions</li> <li>Small infrastructure works for restoration and preservation of historical or artistic sites and procurement of equipment</li> <li>Development of new and upgrading of existing museum collections, exhibitions and similar</li> <li>Networking between different sectors to contribute to efficiency and attractiveness of tourism offer</li> </ul>

## Financial Plan

The Programme is mainly implemented through awarding grants to the Programme beneficiaries. Grants are awarded through grant schemes based on public calls for proposals. Calls for proposals are launched jointly by Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina making IPA II funds for the specific Call for Proposals available to beneficiaries to be spent using rules and procedures that apply to funds for European Union's external actions. Calls for Proposals are launched periodically during the Programme implementation and rules for specific Calls are defined in the Guidelines for Applicants available upon launching.

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

IPA II CBC PROGRAMME Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina								Total (EUR)
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2014-2020
<b>CBC Operations (all thematic priorities)</b>	1 400 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	1 400 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	1 800 000	<b>12 600 000</b>
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	600 000	0	0	600 000	0	0	200 000	<b>1 400 000</b>
<b>TOTAL (EUR)</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>14 000 000</b>

Table 2: Indicative financial allocation per priority and rate of Union contribution

PRIORITIES	Union contribution	Beneficiary/ies co-financing	Total funding	Rate of Union contribution
TP1: Promoting employment, labour mobility, social and cultural inclusion across the border	3.500.000,00	617.647,06	4.117.647,06	85%
TP2: Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaption and mitigation, risk prevention and management	4.900.000,00	864.705,88	5.764.705,88	85%
TP3: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	4.200.000,00	741.176,47	4.941.176,47	85%
TP4: Technical Assistance	1.400.000,00	0,00	1.400.000,00	100%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>14.000.000,00</b>	<b>2.223.529,41</b>	<b>16.223.529,41</b>	



## Programme Beneficiaries

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a legal person, and
- be non-profit-making, and
- be effectively established in either Republic of Serbia or Bosnia and Herzegovina, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the operations with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

## Programme Structures

### Serbia:

- **Ministry of European Integration, Government of the Republic of Serbia** - (Cross-border Cooperation Body and Head of Operating Structure);
- **Ministry of Finance, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU)** - (Contracting Authority (CA)).

### Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- **Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (DEI)** - (Cross-border Cooperation Body and Head of Operating Structure);
- **Ministry of Finance and Treasury** - (Control Body).

Moreover, the implementation of the Programme is overseen by a **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)** composed of representatives of both participating countries' institutions and civil society. The JMC will examine and provide an advisory opinion on the list of actions selected through this call for proposals before the grant award decision.

The CA, the OSs and the JMC are assisted by the **Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)** based in Užice, Republic of Serbia, and staffed with experts from Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The JTS is the administrative body responsible for the day-to-day management of the Programme including support and advice to potential applicants as well as grant beneficiaries. The JTS has an Antenna located in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The JTS will assist potential applicants in partner search and project development, organising information days and workshops; develop and maintain a network of stakeholders; advise grant beneficiaries in project implementation; support the work of the evaluation committee; and prepare, conduct and report on monitoring visits to cross-border cooperation actions.

## Calls for Proposals

The responsible authorities in the participating countries are planning to implement the majority of interventions through grant schemes based on public calls for proposals. They will ensure full transparency in the process and access to a wide range of public and non-public entities. The Joint Monitoring Committee will be responsible for identifying the thematic priorities, specific objectives, target beneficiaries and specific focus of each call for proposals which shall be endorsed by the European Commission.

The responsible authorities are committed to publish calls for proposals avoiding overlapping of TPs between different CBC programmes. The calls for proposals will in principle use the rotating principle for selection of TPs and their specific objectives.

Before the publication of the calls for proposals (and the definition of the tendering documents) the responsible authorities will review the current needs/perspectives and realisation of indicators in previous CfPs. On this basis a list of TPs and specific objectives to be published in the CfPs will be proposed. The plan will be coordinated with other programmes/CfPs that could be eventually opened / published at the same time, to avoid overlapping. For subsequent calls for proposals under this financial cycle, those TPs and/or specific objectives which had not been previously published would be selected.

### Where can you get more information on the programme?

For the purpose of making communication and Programme implementation more efficient, Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) has been established in Užice (Serbia), with its Antenna in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Function of the JTS is to ensure efficient Programme implementation across the programme area and providing technical assistance to potential applicants and grant beneficiaries.

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**Contacts:**

**Joint Technical Secretariat**

Nemanjina 52, 31000 Užice  
Phone/fax: + 381 31 512 394  
office@srb-bih.org

**Antenna Tuzla**

Turalibegova bb, TC Pasaž, 75000 Tuzla  
Phone: +387 35 257 365  
danijela.konjic@srb-bih.org

[www.srb-bih.org](http://www.srb-bih.org) • [www.mei.gov.rs](http://www.mei.gov.rs) • [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs) • [www.cfcu.gov.rs](http://www.cfcu.gov.rs) • [www.dei.gov.ba](http://www.dei.gov.ba)



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