



*With the festive season nearly upon us, it is time for the third newsletter from*

### ***the IPA CBC Programme Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2020***

*Now is a good time to summarize activities we have accomplished in the second half of the year. All achieved results make us feel confident that we will continue to meet the set goals and carry out this Programme successfully!*



### ***Latest Programme news***

#### **First Call for Proposals**

In addition to the four projects contracted at the very end of 2018, five additional projects of the First Call for Proposals were contracted in July this year. During second half of the year we have organized workshops for all nine projects with aim to support grant beneficiaries in implementation of the projects. The two-day Implementation workshop was held on July 17-18, 2019 in Sarajevo. Also, Programme staff provided consultations and assistance to grant beneficiaries on the daily basis.



#### **Second Call for Proposals**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals was opened on November 14, 2019 and will be closed on February 21, 2020. Over the coming year, we are looking forward to welcoming more high-quality project applications with 4,77million EUR of funding available.

Through this Call, projects which seek to enhance employability and to improve sustainable environmental planning and promotion of biodiversity, or to improve the management system for emergency interventions, will be targeted.



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With an aim to promote the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals, we organized **Kick off Conference and information session** on December 03, 2019 at Zlatibor, Serbia. More than 80 conference attendees were addressed by representatives of the Ministry of European Integration Republic of Serbia, Directorate for European Integration BiH, Ministry of Finance of Republic of Serbia and Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia.



*"The European Union uses Cross-border Programmes to directly promote cross-border regions and to support their economical, territorial and social development. The success and potential influence of the programme depends on the quality of the projects. Furthermore, the projects in the upcoming two years will largely influence the future 2021-27 Programme.", stressed Mr. Steffen Hudolin, Head of Operations II from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia.*

Dealing with topics such as the rules of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals and the application package, additional three Information Sessions and one Partner Search Forum were organized in Programme area. Mentioned events welcomed more than 170 visitors in Vrdnik, Serbia; Bijeljina and Kiseljak, BiH.



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## Stories from the field

### Safeguarding Unique Biodiversity of Drina Valley Environment

The project „Safeguarding Unique Biodiversity of Drina Valley Environment” recognized the importance of cross-border cooperation in order to preserve the Serbian spruce.

Situated in the middle course of the Drina River is the only natural habitat of this endemic conifer tree in the world. The number of trees of Serbian spruce is decreasing, hence the help of biologists, scientists and experts was requested in order to preserve the natural habitat of the Europe most beautiful conifer tree from the Tertiary era.

Trees are listed, genetic material is being analyzed trying to identify the cause of Serbian spruce disappearance. More than 20 sites will be surveyed and mapped over the course of next year. For the first time, an innovative, scanning lidar method of spruce localities will be applied in the territory of six municipalities of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Research and analysis of Serbian spruce's genetic diversity is carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Genetics and Genetic Engineering of the University of Belgrade. An expert team from Tara National Park and the Institute are collecting specimens of this species on difficult and rough terrain.

*“This practically helps us to determine the genetic diversity of the Serbian spruce in its habitats and it allows us to know which trees and individuals of the Serbian spruce will be the best to ensure the survival of the species in the future”* said Mrs. Marijana Josipovic, a biologist at the National Park.



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## Stories from the field

### Social integration through parasport – Parainspired!

The members of the project team, gathered under the slogan “Inspire!”, have already been implementing the project for a year with the aim of creating better conditions for disabled persons’ sport development through the procurement of sports equipment, increasing both professional competences and institutional capacities for work with persons with disabilities.

During the first year of the project, significant sports equipment for athletes with disabilities in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was purchased, as well as two van vehicles that paraathletes can use during the project and after its completion.

*“Thanks to the European project, fifteen children with disabilities from this Srem municipality have taken part in sports activities, which is the best example of the effects of this project in which other municipalities and cities in our province can be involved”,* said Mr. Vladimir Gak at a symposium that was organized to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Indjija.



The Symposium in Indjija was a continuation of a series of events organized on this topic in the border area both in Indjija and Sarajevo. During the autumn, the Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted a symposium entitled “Opportunities for Social Integration through Sport”, as well as workshops for sports workers and students of the Faculty of Sport, named after the project “Inspire”.

The Project Parainspired! is carried out with the support of the table tennis players as project ambassador.

*“I hope that the project will be just one of many and that many municipalities will get involved because each municipality has the same problem - simply people with disabilities, regardless of disability, need to be taken out of their homes”,* said Mrs. Borislava Peric Rankovic, table tennis player from Serbia Paraolympic national team.

Mr. Vladimir Batez, Provincial Secretary for Sport and Youth, expressed his satisfaction with seeing the concrete results of the project *“The success and strength of our Paralympians should be a motive for everyone else to start playing sports, to get as many young people with disabilities involved in sports activities and to view sport as an environment that creates winners every day”.*



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## Stories from the field

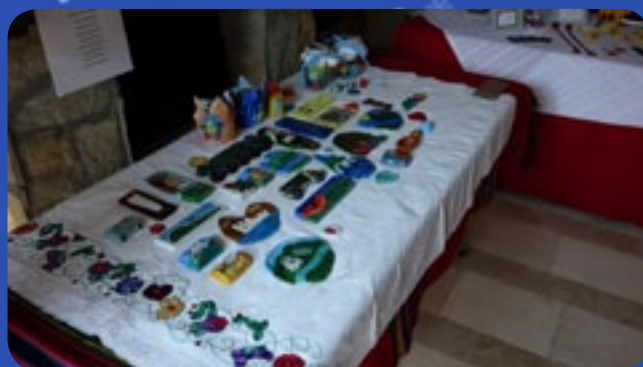
### White sport

The partners in the project “White sport and 19th century common cultural and historical heritage as touristic offer of the Municipalities Rudo and Priboj” are successfully implementing activities related to the first year of project implementation and the first results are already visible.

Completed renovation of the auxiliary building of the Jevđevića house in Priboj has turned it into an art workshop. In the renovated building a workshop for the production of clay and plaster souvenirs was held in August. In the same period, a workshop for souvenir production through embroidery, knitting and sewing was held in Rudo. After the workshops, products exhibition was organized in the auxiliary building of the Kuće Jevđevića. Exhibited were souvenirs created with old craft techniques such as embroidery, knitting, weaving and creative ideas characteristic for these two municipalities.



*“I am pleasantly surprised by the talent of the workshop participants and I am convinced that, through the production of souvenirs, they will be able to generate additional funds in this rather impoverished area,”* said Mrs. Ana Jovanovic, founder of the Serbia Souvenirs project.



Work is underway on the construction of tennis courts in Priboj and Rudo, which will form the basis for the development of tennis in these border areas. The acquisition of basic tennis equipment (racquets, balls, grips, auxiliary nets) is in progress. In March 2020, a junior category tennis school will be launched, organized by tennis coaches who have obtained their licenses through this project. Also, a seven-day camp is planned for 20 girls and 20 boys between the ages of 7 and 15 during 2020.

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## Stories from the field

### CBC Nature NET

One of the main goals of the CBC Nature NET project is to build a research and educational ecological center in the Sutjeska National Park. In order to develop the Center and its impact on the wider community, it is planned to hire experts to produce strategic documents such as the Center Management Plan for the next five-year period. The center will have equipment for measuring the greenhouse gases.



Mr. Luka Lavadinovic, a professor at the Belgrade Faculty of Forestry, said that the Research Center would serve not only to the experts in the forestry profession but also to the wider population. *"We hope that this center will promote this area and attract people to come here and enjoy the amazing beauty of National Park "Sutjeska" and to become more familiar with our activities in the field"*, said Mr. Lavadinovic.

*"This project is essential for the preservation of both nature and the forestry profession. Concepts like this lead to bringing society closer to a profession that is quite unknown. The Center should establish cooperation with the faculties and institutes from the surrounding countries for the needs of the development of education and research in the field of forestry, medicine, agriculture, tourism, sports"*, said Mr. Sead Vojnikovic, Vice-Dean of the Sarajevo Faculty of Forestry.



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## Stories from the field

### Suburban recycling

Cities of Uzice and Tuzla established in 2014. cross-border cooperation in the field of municipal waste management, and now within the project “Suburban recycling” – Establishing system of waste management in suburban area of Uzice and Tuzla “ are implementing a project aimed at improving the public services efficiency in municipal waste management, by establishing a system of primary waste selection in 5,000 households in the suburban settlements of Uzice and Tuzla.

Project activities are currently focused on the procurement of equipment for the separate collection, transportation and waste packaging (10,000 bins, 40 containers, 2 lorries and one baling press). During February next year equipment distribution will begin in the suburban areas of the two cities. In that way, the complete system establishment is planned for the spring of 2020. In anticipation of the equipment delivery, the project team is working intensively to develop a plan for setting up the utility equipment and to define the households to which it will be distributed.

In parallel with obtaining the infrastructure equipment, the project also envisages the work on education of different target groups (educators, council employees, citizens).

*“Based on our discussions with citizens, we have seen that the introduction of primary waste selection has been welcomed in our local community, where we will include around 800 households with this project. Distribution of waste bins for primary waste selection is a good way to draw citizens’ attention to the problem of waste management and to introduce the novelty of waste separation at the primary spot. The bin distribution will be used as an additional motivation for the local community to include a few more families from its area that were not previously covered by regular waste collection. Bins, containers and composters will be the new infrastructure that will change the look of the local communities and we believe that this will be a motivation for citizens too to tidy up their yards, local roads and to change their attitude towards waste and environment”, said Mrs. Majida Mehmedovic, President of Local Community from Gornja Tuzla.*



*“The SUBREC project is very important, because the introduction of primary municipal waste selection is an imperative and a priority for waste management in our city, and therefore most important for Public Utility Company “Komunalac” because it is necessary to reduce the amount of waste that reaches the Desetine Landfill every day, then to increase the selected waste percentage by category and ultimately to increase its sales or export from our plant”, said Mrs. Amela Jusufovic, expert associate of PUC “Komunalac” from Tuzla.*

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## Stories from the field

### Solid Waste Management Upgrading

The multiple benefits of cross-border cooperation and the contribution to the promotion of ecology have been recognized as a basis for cooperation through the project Solid Waste Management Upgrading. The aim of the project is to reduce the amount of waste for final disposal through the establishment of locations with containers and the procurement of special vehicles for waste transport from containers. Also important is the construction of technical water wells and the procurement of two water tanks. For many years Public Utility Company "Rad" from Sarajevo does not use drinking water for maintaining the streets, but it is necessary to increase the capacity of technical water for streets cleaning.



*"One part of the population wants to separate the waste, they ask us to put waste recycling bins in their streets. On the other hand, many citizens are not sufficiently educated, so they do not adequately handle the basic waste types, let alone recycling it. Large quantities of garbage are dumped next to the containers. Not only the citizens should be blamed for this, but the big problem is also locations with not enough containers and no organized garbage collection. Public Company Rad intends to introduce a geographic information system where all locations will be mapped and the required number of containers analyzed in relation to the respective number of households and businesses", said Mrs. Majda Čukojević in front of PUC "Rad" from Sarajevo.*



Sarajevo Canton transfers experience to the city of Valjevo in the field of waste management and primary separation in households. Also useful is Rad's experience in working in waste separation at the landfill itself, because Landfill has dedicated lines and a separate separation facility.

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## Stories from the field

### Museum stories

Representatives of museums and cultural institutions from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina established the Museum Network, which includes 11 cross-border cultural institutions. The Museum Network seeks to promote and create a long-term cooperation between project participants as a basis for exchanging experiences, ideas and finding common solutions to their problems on both sides of the border. In the previous period, during the Museums Night, these institutions jointly promoted, for the first time, all programs that will take place in museums with the aim of increasing visibility and accessibility for visitors in order to strengthen their position on the tourism market.



Museums will organize 9 joint exhibitions in Sarajevo, Loznica, Prijepolje and Užice. For example, the citizens of Sarajevo will have the opportunity to visit and see exhibitions of paintings by women artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia at the City Hall Museum. Visitors to the Olympic Museum will also be able to see the exhibition of Vlade Divac, which is part of the permanent exhibition of the Prijepolje Museum, while the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its exhibition will visit the Uzice National Museum. This is only one part of the joint exhibitions that will be organized and which will be available to citizens from the cross-border region the cultural and historical heritage of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which they otherwise cannot see in the permanent exhibitions of their museums.

City Manager, Mr. Dejan Stalović, on behalf of the City of Loznica, expressed his satisfaction that the city together with the Cultural centre Vuk Karadžić is part of an important international, cross-border project and participation in such projects is one of the important activities that raises the visibility of cultural institutions and the city itself.

Mrs. Nataša Jovanović, Project coordinator from the Cultural centre "Vuk Karadžić", emphasized that through this project cultural institutions will receive equipment in order to raise technical capacities for organizing joint exhibitions, but also a joint catalog that should promote museums from the cross-border area in a mutual way with the aim of increasing their visibility in the region.

*"It is also very important to develop new platforms for new projects, which is the sustainability of this action after the formal completion of the project, it is presumable that cooperation between these institutions will continue",* said Mrs. Aida Džamalića Duran, Project coordinator from the City of Sarajevo.



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## Stories from the field

### Improving Solid Waste Management in Urban and Rural Areas of Bajina Bašta, Višegrad and Han Pijesak municipalities

Improvement of solid waste management in urban and rural areas is the main objective of the project Improving Solid Waste Management in Urban and Rural Areas of Bajina Bašta, Višegrad and Han Pijesak municipalities. Public Utility Company "12 Septembar" from Bajina Bašta has remarkable results in the field of waste selection, and through this project wants to establish new, higher standards and to share experiences with colleagues from Višegrad and Han Pijesak.

Mr. Velimir Mitrovic, waste management expert, said: *"Cross-border cooperation is the only possible way to fully and permanently protect the Drina River from pollution. Floating waste clearly invites all interested parties to establish a permanent, concrete joint action. CBC projects in our overall socio-economic conditions are the engine without which it is hard to imagine the establishment of development processes"*.

Also, Mr. Mitrovic emphasized *"Another possibility is that a large number of different professional profiles will be involved and*

*collaborate within these projects. The positive effects of this action will influence the raising of self-confidence and the level of mutual trust. This is necessary in terms of encouraging everyone to take the next action"*.

In the municipality of Han Pijesak, Mayor, Mr. Vlado Ostojic commented on the remarkable contribution of the project: *"The cross-border project allows us to improve the management and disposal of solid waste in the urban as well as the mountainous and hilly parts of the municipality of Han Pijesak. Through this project equipment will be procured for the collection and transportation of the dry waste. Utility company workers will be trained in mentioned fields, while campaign about the importance of preserving the untouched nature in the municipality of Han Pijesak will be constantly conducted"*.



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## Stories from the field

### Neolife

Project is based on cultural wealth, similarities and synergies of territories of cities of Uzice and Tuzla.

Reconstruction activities are currently underway within the Neolithic lake-dwelling settlement within the "Pannonian Lakes" complex in Tuzla. Completion of the works is planned for April 2020.

Due to good weather conditions, Neolithic settlement gets its contours in the Gorge of the Djetinja River. In accordance with the planned dynamics, first visitors are expected in the spring 2020.

Designing animation programs is underway which will be used to complement the experience of Neolithic life in the area, to conceptualize the interior design of buildings, as well as to find the best management model that will ensure the self-sustainability of settlements.



The cities of Uzice and Tuzla will have at their disposal ten tourist guides trained in thematic management of tourist groups and a presentation of the unique past of the cross-border area. Tourist guides were jointly trained in order to improve the presentation of the living and working conditions of the Neolithic man.

The project was presented as an example of good practice in tourism at the International Tourism Conference in Western Serbia held at Zlatar in December 2019. On this occasion, Director of the Tourist Organization of Western Serbia, Mr. Miroslav Rađen stressed: *"The project is an example of innovation in the establishment and presentation of a common cultural heritage of the earliest history, which will contribute to the recognition of areas in domestic and regional tourism markets. It is a specific offer that creates the conditions for attracting more visitors and staying longer in the cross-border area"*.



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# About

IPA 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).

The Programme is implemented jointly by both countries. Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in charge of the overall coordination of the Programme as the Operating Structures. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU) is responsible for all contract as the Contracting Authority (CA). Programme is assisted by Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS).

The overall budget of the Programme for the period 2014-2020 is 14,000,000 EUR while Beneficiaries co-financing is expected to be 2,223,529.41 EUR.

So far, in total the Programme has founded 49 projects, providing 14,85 million EUR of EU funding across the Programme area.



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