

## Newsletter N°6, July 2021

Dear readers,

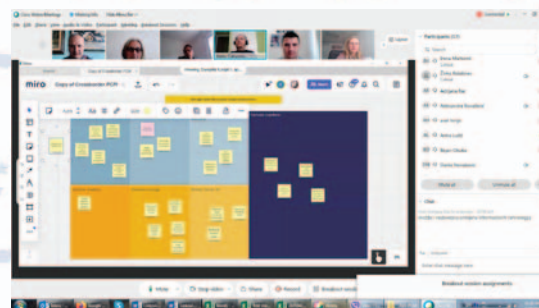
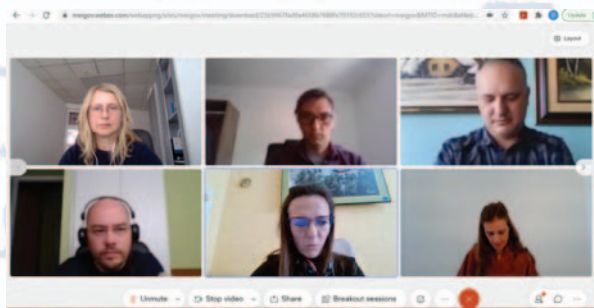
Get information on the current activities within our Program through the sixth edition of the biannual newsletter **"Common Ideas for Better Future!"** during the holiday season. In the summer edition, you can get information about the activities during 2021, as well as, about the newly contracted projects within the IPA CBC Programme Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2020.



During 2021, our team provided full support to beneficiaries who started implementing projects at the end of last year and during this year, as well as to projects which implementation completed this year. We successfully performed initial monitoring visits to projects from the Second CFP, as well as final monitoring of projects from the First CFP.

We are continuously involved in the programming process of the CBCP SRB-BIH for the financial perspective 2021-2027. The second draft of the Program Document was presented at the Public Consultations held on April 19, 2021. Participants in this event contributed to this important process by making suggestions for improving this document.

With regard to preparation for the Third Call for Proposals, we held two workshops on "Preparation of project proposals for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Serbia-BiH 2014-2020". Virtual workshops were held on 26 and 28 April 2021 with the aim to inform about the goals, structures and priorities of the Programme, as well as key aspects of the project cycle and project development. Also, practical advice on how to apply and prepare a logical framework matrix was given to potential applicants. The workshops were attended by over 40 representatives of national and local institutions, development agencies and non-governmental organizations. All interested had the opportunity to get answers to questions and actively participate in the discussion.



All the achieved results make us feel confident that we will continue to meet set goals and carry out this Programme successfully!

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Within the Second Call for Proposals, 13 projects were contracted and have the opportunity to achieve the planned results in the coming period.

## Zero Waste Municipalities

It is time to develop the concept of “Zero Waste Municipalities” in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through the project “Zero Waste Municipalities”, as well as to promote the reduction of waste creation at its source. This approach requires a change in the habits and culture of living acquired so far in the first place by putting a reduction in the use of materials and energy.

Project activities are being implemented in six pilot municipalities: Visoko, Ilijaš and Sarajevo Center in BiH and Bajina Bašta, Vladimirci and Krupanj in Serbia. Action plans for zero waste will be created for the mentioned municipalities within the project. Also, experts will create investment technical analysis based on the concept of zero waste, and develop an interactive GIS map of illegal landfills in each municipality. Through the map finding of the locations of such landfills the work on cleaning sites by the public utility companies will be facilitated. The project will additionally ensure the cleaning of one landfill in the area of municipalities. The sets of bins for separate waste collection will be provided to the population in the pilot municipalities, as well as composters for organic waste disposal. The base for the development of the circular economy and the concept of zero waste in the cross-border area will be created through the implementation of the project activities. The pilot municipalities will also stand out as the “initiators” of a sustainable waste management model in the region.



“The significance of the project Zero Waste Municipalities is reflected in the wider impact which will result from the implementation of project activities. Also, resolving problems in the waste management system goes towards the concept of zero waste and ultimately towards a common transition and a circular economy”, stated Šejla Mahmutović, project manager.





## Bridging

In order to overcome the common problem as the lack of qualified and well-trained staff in the tourism industry, the Association Užice Center for Human Rights and Democracy, the School of Economics Užice Vocational School of Economics Užice and the Chamber of Economy for Sarajevo Canton started solving the problem through the project "Bridging". They will try to contribute to increasing sustainable employability and mobility by encouraging young people and people who need professional retraining in order to get a job faster. An imperative of this project is improving tourism services in line with market requirements and encouraging the employability of young women.

The goal will be achieved through the implementation of four sets of activities:

- Education and transfer of knowledge to the direct beneficiaries of the project;
- The establishment of two centers for theoretical training of staff in tourism;
- Networking activities and planning for the development of the service of retraining and training of staff in tourism;
- Promotion of tourism profession in primary schools in the cross-border area of Zlatibor District and Sarajevo Canton;
- Raising the visibility of the project.

We hope that the project will contribute to the increase of tourist potentials and improved tourist image of the region, and finally, to the increased number of satisfied tourists in the cross-border region.



## Establishing the system of sustainable bulky waste management on the territories of the cities of Uzice and Tuzla – Bulky Waste Less/BWL

The introduction of a new system in bulky waste management is a great challenge for the public sector and the local community. So, PUC Regional waste management Centre Duboko, PUC Komunalac and the Centre for Ecology and Energy from Tuzla face a major task in establishing a functional and sustainable system. This team has the opportunity to cooperate for the third time on the cross-border cooperation project with the aim to provide effective waste management in the municipalities of Uzice and Tuzla.

“Changes in public policies are never easy, especially when they involve bringing order where it has not been for decades. The new system will be developed through the project, and require a change in citizens habits. It will be necessary to get out of “comfort zones” and to leave the practice of disposing of bulky waste from the households anywhere. On the other hand, utility companies will have to adhere to the same dynamics in order to provide functional and sustainable system,” said project manager Miloš Radojević.



The BWL project is making a step forward in bulky waste management for both countries. Also, project can be model for other local communities in the region. The project partners believe that they will succeed in their intention, and that the achievements of the project will be a motivation for some future initiatives.



## Capacity of Protection and Rescue Institutions Strengthened-CoPRIS

Institutions from Sremska Mitrovica and Tuzla will try to increase the resistance to natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area through the project "CoPRIS". Also, they will apply best practices to reduce the risk of natural and other disasters with the aim to protect people, environment and property in the cross-border area of Sremska Mitrovica and Tuzla.

The goal of the project is long term strengthening the capacities of all institutions, reducing the vulnerability of the local community and increasing resilience to natural and other disasters and accidents caused by human activities in the cross-border area of Sremska Mitrovica and Tuzla. The aim can be achieved through strengthening capacities of protection and rescue in disaster prevention, as well as the responses of all relevant institutions involved in the protection and rescue system by following the best practices of the European Union.

## Improve employability of people from vulnerable groups through provision of new knowledge and skills

The decades-long experience of Caritas Sabac, ProReha and SEC in the fields of social protection, social entrepreneurship and adult education was the basis for the project "Improve employability of people from vulnerable groups through provision of new knowledge and skills". Improving the employability of people from vulnerable groups in the cross-border area and increasing opportunities for their employment will be supported by the participation of the municipality of Bogatić as a partner, public body, decision maker.



Project manager, Miroljub Nikolic, points out that the importance of the project is establishing better cooperation in the cross-border area in the field of social entrepreneurship. He adds that the number of informal trainings for people from socially vulnerable groups is insufficient in both countries, while the real needs are a quite large. This project has opportunity to change the existing situation. The project activities have a very affirmative effect on the beneficiaries: long-term unemployed and hard-to-employ persons, persons from socially vulnerable categories of society, including persons with disabilities. They have opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will make them competitive in the labor market, which provide them opportunity for employment. On the other hand, in the sectors of social protection and social agriculture there is space for employment, and need for professionally trained staff. This project combines these two issues and offers a unique solution for the benefit of the whole community.



## Improved Emergency Preparedness & Coordinated Response in Cross-Border Area of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (CBC-IePCR)

The Mountain Rescue Service of Serbia, the Mountain Rescue Service of the Sarajevo Station, the Mountain Rescue Service of Brcko and the Tara Mountaineering Club will try to increase search and rescue capacities in the upcoming period. Also, capacities for providing medical assistance on inaccessible terrains will be improved. It is estimated that the response time of rescuers to the place where the action needs to be performed will be reduced. Also, rescuers will be able to acquire and improve the knowledge on real terrains under controlled conditions. The projects will ensure benefits for the population, as well as for tourists in the border region.



"Mountain rescue services, which were established on the territory of the former SFRY, have a long-term cooperation through the International Association of Mountain Rescue Services (ICAR-CISA). The project aims to strengthen ties between the members of the association. All services are developing in the same direction by upgrading knowledge and exchanging experiences. Online training platform and IT application will be created to enable access to information and protocols of our rescue domains to everyone at any time", said Vladimir Kačurić, Director of the Mountain Rescue Service.



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## Together in Education for Employability and Employment (3E)

Within the project "3E", Sabac and Visoko will try to contribute to the reduction of labor shortages in the metal industry of both cities. The project partners will support employment and increase employment opportunities in the area of the Mačva district and Zenica-Doboij Canton.

Sabac will share the acquired knowledge and experience in the field of employment. The training center will respond to the needs of the labor market by offering various accredited trainings for improving the knowledge and skills of the unemployed.

Following the example Visoko will establish employment partnership and develop its local employment action plan to contribute to the reduction of unemployment.



Nemanja Pajic, project manager emphasized "The city of Sabac has a long tradition of good relations with BiH and this is the reason I particularly hope that the project " 3E "will achieve the planned goals through the exchange of experiences, opinions and activities. The most important thing is that the unemployed people acquire new practical skills in real working circumstances and get a job as soon as possible. I believe that the experiences and results from the numerous projects will contribute to the implementation and enforcement of this project, and its goals will be achieved in full capacity."

## Healthy and safety gastronomic products as potential for new employment

“The project is aimed to develop the professional competencies of young people. During 18 months they will have the opportunity to acquire new gastronomic knowledge and skills in order to increase competitiveness in the labor market. Creating a new program of healthy nutrition without allergens, through school entrepreneurship, should enable a better perspective for employment and professional inclusion of young people. Healthy nutrition is recognized as a common development challenge in the population of young people in both border areas. Project will deal with the primary social problem”, said Jovan Jovanovic, project manager.



The project will involve caterers, chefs, professors, and food producers through various training programs, workshops, counseling, visits, public forums and roundtables. The production plant for the preparation of gastronomic products will be created by equipping school kitchens in Ruma and Zvornik.

The project will contribute to the creation of a stimulating environment for young people. Also, the impact will be achieved in solving social problems of employment and proper development of young people.

## Upgrading of the waste management public service capacities in cross border region

Improving sustainable environmental planning by improving the public service (administration, inspection and supervision) related to solid waste and wastewater management is the main task of the Provincial Secretariat for urban planning and environmental protection and its partners Ministry for spatial planning, civil engineering and ecology of Republic of Srpska –Banja Luka, Republic Administration for Inspection Activities of the Republic of Srpska, Institute for Protection and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska.

During the opening conference Brankica Tabak, on behalf of Provincial Secretariat pointed out “I am glad that we are implementing this project. I believe the capacity of our institutions on many levels will be increased by October 2022. Waste



management requires serious supervision on behalf of our inspection services, the department is located in Sremska Mitrovica, which will seem to have the most benefits and satisfaction to participate in this project and give its contribution”.



## **Improving fire emergency management system in the cross border area of B&H and Serbia**

The project promotes better cooperation between different actors. Also, the project is innovative for both partners and includes the exchange of best practices in the cross-border area.

Trough successful implementation, project will contribute to coordination and cooperation in relation to the emergency management system in case of fire in the cross-border area. In the municipalities of Rogatica and Bajina Basta the management of fire systems, prevention, response and rescue capacities will be improved. The sustainable development in cross border region will be achieved by improving human capacities, upgrading technical capacities, exchanging best practices and networking, "said Zorana Bojović, project manager.

Also, the project actors point out that during the realization of the project, the human capacities of the Municipality of Rogatica, Tara National Park, the Municipality of Bajina Basta and relevant forest farms will be strengthened. Employees of fire brigades, forest farms, as well as representatives of protected area managers and civil protection representatives will be trained. A contribution is also expected in strengthening the capacity of the fire service for prevention and rescue.

## **Support to establishment and improvement of Self-employment Support Mechanisms through cooperation between innovative local communities and new businesses in the cross-border region – SYSTEM**

The Municipality of Novo Sarajevo in partnership with the Municipality of Ilijaš and the National Youth Council of Serbia, as well as with the municipalities of Sremska Mitrovica and Loznica will implement the project SYSTEM with aim to increase employment opportunities. The goal will be achieved through joint activities such as developing new mechanisms to support self-employment, implementing of joint programs, education, and knowledge transfer as well as raising awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship.

"Through the project activities we have opportunity to systematically create support for self-employment and continuously work on improving conditions and creating a favorable business environment", said Azra Prašović, project manager.

Mayor of Novo Sarajevo dr. Hasan Tanović points out that Novo Sarajevo is the open and desirable partner for cooperation, which will be proved in the next period. The project is in line with the strategic goals of the development of the Municipality and it is the result of increased activities and commitment of local administration to create and use available funds from EU funds, as well as the establishment of long-term cooperation with local communities at the regional level.

## Strengthening The Employment Perspective in Disability Sport Sector - STEPIn

Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Paralympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faculty of sport and physical education, University of Novi Sad and Taekwondo club Dragon will in the period of 15 months, try to increase opportunities for employment of people with disabilities in the sport industry.

STEPIn project corresponds to the priority of promoting employment, specifically by tackling the issue of poor employment perspectives of youth by offering education in new professional services in the parasports sector. The parasports sector represents a new and quite innovative sector of the labour market in the cross-border region, which so far has not been included in traditional teaching curricula, but has been supported by the help of individuals coming from different spheres of work, such as coaches, sport administrators, professors of sport and physical activity, health and medical graduates. Apart from providing access to new services, and facilitating employment, STEPIn will contribute to the social inclusion across the border by improving the chances for people with disability to practice sport on both sides of the border.

Special attention throughout the STEPIn project will be setting up a STEPIn platform which will offer the opportunities of online education specifically designed for the employment opportunities in the sector of parasports, and practical educational sessions which will focus on providing knowledge and skills for those who would like to become internationally certified classifiers. Furthermore, job shadowing activities will provide the opportunity for selected candidates to experience first-hand work of international classifiers.



“Based on a previous research and a successfully implemented project Parainspired, the lack of employment opportunities in the parasports sector was evident. Furthermore, research pointed towards the need of having specialised education and chances of practical learning. So, STEPIn together with us into this 15 months long journey where we will discover new skills and opportunities in the sector of sports with disabilities”, said prof.dr. Izet Rađo, Vice president of the Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



In the first half of 2021, the remaining three projects from the First CfP have entered in the final phase of implementation

## Cross border natural heritage Network – CBC Nature NET

National Park Sutjeska in partnership with the Faculty of Forestry and Srbijašume have presented the results and implemented activities focused on raising environmental awareness, especially among the youngest population in the last quarter of implementation.

In the cross-border area the environmental awareness campaign was launched, a range of activities were organized in primary and secondary schools. As part of the campaign, the action “Cleaning the school” was organized in 12 schools. These actions aimed to educate and raise awareness about environmental protection with a special focus on preserving the natural heritage.



In the period July 1-2, 2021, the second regional conference and round table were organized in the Nature Park at Zlatibor. Special attention was given to the identification of key actors from the tourism sector, and the exchange of innovative ideas for the promotion and development of tourism services in all five protected areas covered by the project. Trough organization of the final conference at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade marked the end of the project activities.



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

The Municipality of Bajina Bašta has received significant technical improvements in the waste management system, which is also reflected in the collection and treatment of large quantities of waste, especially dry selected components and in the treatment of waste of animal origin.

The selected waste collection has increased in the city area, and also expanded to the rural local communities which provides a cleaner environment in the rural area in the long run.

The introduction of the waste selection system is being successfully completed in the municipalities of Višegrad and Han Pijesak. The project partners from BiH are using the experiences of colleagues from Bajina Bašta in order to overcome the initial problems and achieve better results.



Bajina Bašta will prepare an appropriate project for the future composting plant based on clear input parameters obtained from the established pilot composting plant. Composting plant will fulfill the capacity and technology needs of a small town on the right bank of the Drina.





## About Us

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, since its establishment in 2007 the Programme has funded 59 projects, providing 18,46 million EUR of EU funds across the Programme area.

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