

2016



## **ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

**ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE "INTERREG-IPA CBC BULGARIA-TURKEY" FOR THE YEARS 2014-2020 UNDER THE INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) WITH THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL (SEA) REPORT**

## INTRODUCTION

The current Monitoring Report is prepared in accordance with:

SEA Report of the INTERREG-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey

DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (referred to as the SEA Directive)

### **Relevant Bulgarian legislation:**

- Environmental Protection Act
- Climate change mitigation Act
- Biological Diversity Act
- Protected Areas Act
- Water Act
- Soils Act
- Waste Management Act
- Tourism Act
- Bulgarian national rules on the terms and procedures for assessment of the compatibility of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the objectives and purposes of the preservation of the protected areas (last amended as of 30.11.2012)
- Environmental Assessment Statement ref. № 9-5/2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) of the Republic of Bulgaria

### **Relevant Turkish legislation:**

- Environmental Law of the Republic of Turkey
- Energy Efficiency Low of the Republic of Turkey
- Law on Solid Waste Control by the Republic of Turkey
- Regulations by the Republic of Turkey regarding point source land pollution and soil contamination control; the management of surface water quality; protection of wetlands; increased energy efficiency in the use of energy resources and energy.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Programme was officially approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015 with EC Decision № C (2015) 5280.

During 2016 an amendment of the INTERREG-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey (the Programme) was performed concerning the establishment of baseline and target values of qualitative programme result indicators and does not influence the envisaged priorities and activities, respectively does not require new SEA report and new Environmental statement by the MoEW.

The Managing Authority launched the first Call for proposals on 16 November 2015 with a deadline for submission of project applications 16 March 2016. The call was open for all specific objectives under Priority axis 1 and Priority axis 2 with total budget amounted on EUR 11 028 255 (i.e. covering the Programme budget allocations for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017).

Within the specified deadline a total of 195 project proposals were received and there was achieved a good distribution among the two Priority Axes - 87 proposals were submitted under PA 1 “Environment” and 108 under PA 2 “Sustainable Tourism”. Out of the 195 submitted proposals, 116 passed the administrative compliance and eligibility check and were subject to technical and quality assessment. 63 projects received average technical scores above 65 points (out of maximum 100), which was the threshold for technical admissibility.

At the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the JMC provisionally approved for financing 39 project proposals at the total amount of EUR 10 750 816.

A total of 16 project proposals were proposed for contracting under PA 1 “Environment“, with 10 Lead partners from Bulgaria and 6 from Turkey as the majority of the projects were investment proposals (10), while the rest project proposals are “soft” measures ones (6). On the other hand a total of 23 projects were proposed for contracting under PA 2 “Sustainable Tourism“, with 18 Lead partners from Bulgaria and 5 from Turkey.

The distribution of project proposals by Specific objectives (SO) under the Programme is as follows:

- SO 1.1 “Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area” – 6 project proposals;
- SO 1.2 “Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area” – 10 project proposals;
- SO 2.1 “Increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilization of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure” – 8 project proposals;

- SO 2.2 “Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations” – 8 project proposals;
- SO 2.3 “Increasing networking for development of sustainable tourism through cross-border cooperation initiatives” – 7 project proposals.

By the end of 2016 the pre-contracting procedures have been finalized and the preparation of the Negotiation report has started. The pre-contracting procedure included check for double financing, check for compliance with State Aid rules (for Bulgarian projects partners only), on-the-spot site visits of the investment proposals and budget negotiations with all lead partners.

The subsidy contracts are going to be signed in the first trimester of 2017 and right after that self-assessment questionnaires on the expected environmental consequences of the envisaged project activities in regard to the six environmental issues (Air and climate; Biodiversity, fauna and flora; Water; Soil; Population and Human Health; Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape) will be submitted to the Lead partners to be filled in. For the purpose of the self-assessment the questionnaire in section 10.2 of the SEA Report will be used and the results will be compared to the expected consequences for respective Specific objective according to the SEA report. The outcomes from the compatibility checks will be provided in the next reporting period.

#### INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVENTION, REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE OF POTENTIAL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FROM THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

According to item I “Measures and requirements for prevention, reduction and elimination as completely as possible of potential negative consequences from the Programme implementation” of the MoEW Environmental Statement, the following requirements shall be met:

1. Plans, programmes and projects, as well as investment proposals, subject of INTERREG-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey, which fall in the scope of the Bulgarian Environmental Protection Act or outside it, and under the provisions of Art. 31 of the Biological Diversity Act are a subject of compatibility assessment with the scope and purpose of the preservation of protected areas. The above interventions may be approved only after a positive decision/statement on the EIA/SEA/environmental compliance assessment, following the respective recommendations, as well as the conditions, requirements and measures set in the decision/statement;
2. The development of tourism should be in conformity with the recreation capacity of the territory and a proper waste water treatment and waste management are to be ensured.

3. Activities as "safari" hiking, "off-routes" tracking for monitoring of rare and endangered species" should not be included in the development of tourist packages under Priority Axis 1, since they lead to significant damages on the environment and in particular on Biodiversity .

Taking into consideration the above requirements, the Managing Authority included all of them into the Guidelines for applicants (GfA) under the First Call for proposals, as follows:

- Every investment proposals is required to present as attachment to the application form (AF) a positive environmental impact assessment (EIA), in case for the foreseen activities an EIA is required by the national legislation. When the relevant legislation does not require an EIA, the applicants have to present a statement by the relevant institutions for exception of the rule for EIA;
- All investment activities have to be in line with the relevant national legislation for the respective type of construction works (including those related to development of tourism);
- Activities as "safari" hiking, "off-routes" tracking for monitoring of rare and endangered species" are included in the lists of ineligible activities for all Priority axes (PA).All the recommendations set in the Environmental Statement were duly laid down as specific requirements already at the application stage and were strictly observed and followed as mandatory criterion in the evaluation and selection of projects for funding under the first call for proposals.

According to the provisions in GfA, in case of investment projects that envisage construction works, the applicants shall provide:

- **either** Positive Environmental Impact Assessment (positive opinion from the relevant body), required by the national legislation (Annex B.4.4 to the AF)
- **or** an official letter issued by the relevant body clearly stated that EIA is not necessary (Annex B6.4 to the AF)

*At application stage* all 9 of the approved for financing projects that envisaged in its scope of intervention construction works activities provided the requested documents issued by the competent environmental bodies (according to the respective national legislation) that an EIA is not required since the planned activities will not affect directly natural habitats and protected areas, as well as there is no possibility of negative effect on the environment and human health.

The rest of the projects approved for financing do not envisage construction works, therefore no EIA /statements from the competent environmental bodies was required from the "soft measures" project proposals (19) and from the project proposals under "investment" status but without construction works activities in their scope of interventions (5).

*During the assessment process* the compatibility of the project proposals to the above requirements was duly checked by the assessors and only projects that met the above criteria were proposed and approved for financing.

All proposed for financing project proposals under the first call will perform a self-assessment on the expected environmental consequences of the envisaged project activities in regard to the six environmental issues (Air and climate; Biodiversity, fauna and flora; Water; Soil; Population and Human Health; Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape). For the purpose of the self-assessment the questionnaire in section 10.2 of the SEA Report will be used and the results will be compared to the expected consequences for respective Specific objective according to the SEA report.

The table below is a template which will be used in the next reporting period to present summarized information on the performed by the project beneficiaries self-assessment including, where applicable, any findings and measures undertaken for mitigation of the negative effects on the environment and human health.

*Due to the fact that no subsidy contracts are signed yet and no implementation of activities has started by the end of the year 2016, the relevant information concerning this issue will be presented the annual report for 2017.*

DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECTS PER PRIORITY AXIS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE /template/

PA / SO	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC)	Expected consequences according to the SEA	Number of projects with expected				Comments / remarks / undertaken measures
			Positive (+) Environmental consequences	Neutral (0) Environmental consequences	Negative (-) Environmental consequences	Both positive and negative (+/-)	
PA 1 SO 1.1	Air and Climate	+					
	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	+					
	Water	+					
	Soil	+					
	Population and Human Health	+					
	Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	+					
PA 1 SO 1.2	Air and Climate	+					
	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	+					
	Water	+					
	Soil	+					
	Population and Human Health	+					
	Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	+					
PA 2 SO 2.1	Air and Climate	+/-					
	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	+/-					
	Water	+/-					

PA / SO	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC)	Expected consequences according to the SEA	Number of projects with expected				Comments / remarks / undertaken measures
			Positive (+) Environmental consequences	Neutral (0) Environmental consequences	Negative (-) Environmental consequences	Both positive and negative (+/-)	
	Soil	+/-					
	Population and Human Health	0					
	Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	+/-					
PA 2 SO 2.2	Air and Climate	0					
	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	0					
	Water	0					
	Soil	0					
	Population and Human Health	0					
	Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	0					
PA 2 SO 2.3	Air and Climate	+					
	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	+					
	Water	+					
	Soil	+					
	Population and Human Health	+					
	Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	+					



**SUMMARY of the environmental answers from the submitted by Lead partners Compatibility Check Sheets /template/**

*Taking into consideration the fact that there are no signed subsidy contracts and no implementation of activities has started by the end of the year 2016, the information concerning the results from the self-assessment questionnaires will be presented during the next reporting period.*

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b> (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC)	<b>Environmental questions / indicators</b>	<b>Answers / Comments</b>
Air and climate	Will the projects have an effect on the reduction of air pollution?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the reduction of the GHG emissions?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the support of environmentally friendly transports?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of forest fire fight management and prevention?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens into fighting climate change?	
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	Will the projects have an effect on the preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems and their services?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the decrease in loss of biodiversity?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens in protecting biodiversity and natural areas?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of tourism that would ensure high degree of nature conservation?	

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b> (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC)	<b>Environmental questions / indicators</b>	<b>Answers / Comments</b>
Water	Will the projects have an effect on the improvement of ecological and chemical status of water bodies?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of water resources?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of sustainable tourism towards water resources preservation?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens into sustainable water use?	
Soil	Will the projects have an effect on the preservation of the soil functionality	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of soil resource	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable tourism towards land preservation?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by increasing education and awareness on soil protection?	
Population and Human Health	Will the project have an effect on the reduction of diseases caused by natural hazards?	
	Will the project have an effect on the promotion of controls of environmental related health risks and hazards?	
	Will the project have an effect on the promotion of risk prevention	

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b> (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC)	<b>Environmental questions / indicators</b>	<b>Answers / Comments</b>
	and management of natural and man-made disasters?	
	Will the project have an effect on the promotion of sustainable waste management to protect human health?	
	Will the project have an effect on the promotion of environmentally-responsible behavior of the public by involving the citizens into the solution of environmental problems?	
Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape	Will the projects have an effect on the protection and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable management and planning of cultural and natural landscape?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources towards sustainable tourism?	
	Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by increasing education and awareness on heritage and landscape preservation and protection?	

## INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES CONCERNING MONITORING AND CONTROL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The table below gives summarized information on the level of achievement of the SEA indicators under the Programme as presented in section 10.1 of the SEA Report.

*Taking into consideration the fact that there are no signed subsidy contracts and no implementation of activities has started by the end of the year 2016, the annual achievement of the SEA indicators for 2016 is “0”.*

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Annual Value							Source of data		
				2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		2023	
OI 1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	Number	3	0									AIRs
OI 1.1.2	Number of supplied specialised equipment/ fixed assets; joint tools/services established or improved related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	Number	3	0									AIRs
OI 1.1.3	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	Number	6	0									AIRs
OI 1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	Number	5	0									AIRs

OI 1.2.2	Number of nature protected initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how, joint awareness raising campaigns, protected areas' management plans	Number	28	0								AIRs
OI 2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	Kilometers	5	0								AIRs
OI 2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	Kilometers	8	0								AIRs
OI 2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites in the eligible cross-border area	Number	10	0								AIRs
OI 2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites in the eligible cross-border area	Number	15	0								AIRs

## **ОБЩИ ИЗВОДИ И ПРЕПОРЪКИ (АКО ИМА ТАКИВА)**

Всички конкретни мерки и изисквания за предотвратяване, намаляване и възможно най-пълно елиминиране на възможните негативни последици от изпълнението на Програмата заложи в Становището по екологичната оценка на МОСВ са надлежно изпълнени по време на етапа на кандидатстване, както и по време на провеждане на процедурите по за оценка и подбор. По-специално, всички 9 от одобрените за финансиране проекти, които предвиждат в обхвата си на интервенции СМР, са представили необходимите екологични документи, издадени от съответните компетентни органи (в зависимост от приложимо национално законодателство). Представените документи показват неоспоримо, че планираните дейности няма да окажат влияние на естествените местообитания и защитени територии, както и не съществува възможност за негативен ефект върху околната среда и човешкото здраве.

*По време на процеса на оценка и подбор съвместимостта на проектни предложения за специфичните изисквания за околната среда (съгласно Становището по екологичната оценка на МОСВ) е надлежно проверена и само тези проекти, които напълно отговарят на критериите за подбор са били предложени и одобрени за финансиране.*

Очакваните резултати от самооценката на бенефициентите по първата покана за набиране на проектни предложения ще бъдат предоставени в следващия отчетен период

**Като се има предвид гореизложеното, може да се заключи, че за настоящия момент не е необходимо предприемане на корективни мерки, тъй като всичките предложени за финансиране по първата покана 39 проекта са в съответствие с очакванията на отчета за ЕО и нито един от тях няма да окаже негативен ефект върху околната среда по поставените шест екологични проблеми.**