How some European programmes and funds can support cross-border cooperation to achieve the biodiversity targets?

TransParcNet Meeting 2021

Gilles Kittel
IPA/EUSAIR/Accession Negotiations Team Leader
REGIO D1
Brussels, 10 June 2021
Who we are?

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether
### Overall Coordination and Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU Strategies for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR) And for the Danube Region (EUSDR) (FTEs: 1 + 4)</th>
<th>EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), IPA &amp; Enlargement Negotiations (FTEs: 1+5)</th>
<th>EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) &amp; Communication, TA (FTEs: 1+3)</th>
<th>Outermost Regions, Maritime, Brexit (FTEs: 1+2)</th>
<th>ENI CBC (FTEs: 1+5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilles Kittel</td>
<td>Magali LENOEL</td>
<td>Astrid Aulnette</td>
<td></td>
<td>Simona Pohlova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klaudia FEURLE</td>
<td>Joanna KIRYLO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ENI CBC, Neighbourhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karolina JASINSKA-MUEHLECK</td>
<td>Giuseppe DI PAOLA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EUSAIR Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadine LAKHAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this presentation…

1. The EU INTERREG Programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity (2000-2020)
2. New architecture of Interreg IPA programmes
3. DRAFT IPA III Programming Framework (Art.10 ETC)
4. More coherence with IPA-IPA CBC Programmes
5. Embedding EUSAIR & EUSD, and indirectly the Investment Plan for the WB
6. Need for reinforced cooperation between EU programmes
7. Stronger need for strategic and territorial focus
The EU INTERREG Programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity (2000-2020)
Track record

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether
The EU INTERREG Programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity (2000-2020)

- Under the current Interreg V programme (2014-2020) funding can be targeted at the protection and restoration of biodiversity and soil, and the promotion of ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure:

  - Around €581 million is foreseen for this, of which €163 million is specifically for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites.
  - According to the EU Keep Database at least 190 projects involving Natura 2000 sites have been funded since 2000 representing a total investment of almost €280 million to which the EU provides funding of €200 million.
Interreg projects involving Natura 2000

- Interreg projects involving Natura 2000 sites are:
  - not just about conserving biodiversity
  - but also about its integration into wider socio-economic development objectives at the local or regional level.
A sample of Interreg IPA programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Activities Types</th>
<th>Project actions</th>
<th>Interreg projects examples (Interreg IPA programme / Total Budget in EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Species conservation and monitoring                        | • Establishing common species monitoring methodologies  
• Drawing up joint or coordinated species action plans and strategies  
• Stakeholder dialogue and engagement  
• Exchange of knowledge  
• Improving connectivity and population status (e.g. fauna passages, reintroduction)                                                                                   | NETCET (IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 / €2,322,660)                                    |
| Natura 2000 network coherence and connectivity             | • Restoring ecological corridors, (e.g. by removing barriers from river habitats)  
• Assessment and monitoring of barriers  
• Definition of restoration methodologies and concepts for habitat corridors based on habitat and species dynamics  
• Stakeholder dialogue and exchange of experiences                                                                                                                 | DANUBEPARKS (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €5,000,000)  
ConnectGREEN (Danube 2014-2020 / €2,462,923.53)  
BioREGIO-Carpathians (2007-2013 South-East Europe / €2,586,260) |
## A sample of Interreg IPA programmes in support of Natura 2000 and Biodiversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Activities Types</th>
<th>Project actions</th>
<th>Interreg projects examples (Interreg IPA programme / Total Budget in EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Natura 2000 sustainable development                        | • Economic valuation of Natura 2000  
  • Promotion of Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage  
  • Promotion of local products  
  • Action plan for nature-based coordination territorial development                                                                 | LENA (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €2,456,291)  
  EcoKARST (Danube 2014-2020 / approx. €2,263,661)                                                                                                                                 |
| Exchanging knowledge and engaging stakeholders from other sectors | • Mediation conflict with stakeholders (e.g. different economic and conservation interests)  
  • Awareness raising  
  • Stakeholders training and capacity building  
  • Improve cooperation among regional, local administrations and site management                                                                 | LINKPAS (Espon)  
  4GreenInn (Black Sea 2007-2013 / €481,086)                                                                                                                                 |
| Marine Monitoring, planning and management                 | • Integrated management of marine sites  
  • Coordinated monitoring  
  • Conflict identification and stakeholder engagement in marine areas  
  • Creation of information and decision support tools (Webgis)                                                                 | NETCET (IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 / €2,732,541)  
  AMARe (Interreg MED 2014-2020 / €2,700,000)  
  PHAROS4MPAS (Interreg MED / €1,179,497)  
  PANACEA-MBPC (Interreg MED / €1,500,000)                                                                 |
The new generation of Interreg IPA programmes
2 New architecture of Interreg IPA programmes
Reference to “strands” as in 2014-2020

• Cross border cooperation (Interreg Strand A)
  ➢ Internal (also 3rd countries without EU funds)
  ➢ External: IPA CBC, NDICI/NEXT CBC

• Transnational cooperation (Interreg Strand B)

• Interregional cooperation (Interreg Stand C)
  ➢ INTERACT, Interreg EUROPE, ESPON & URBACT

• One new strand Interreg D: outermost region cooperation

• Inclusion of external Funds (IPA III, NDICI, Funding for OCTs) under one umbrella
Emphasis on the coherence and continuity of cooperation programme areas

Internal Interreg CBC programmes

Interreg IPA CBC programmes
Transnational Cooperation

- Promotes cooperation among greater European regions, including the ones surrounding sea basins (e.g. Baltic Sea Region, and Atlantic Area) or mountain ranges (e.g. Alpine Space)

- 17 TN programmes in the post 2020 period:
  - 14 External Interreg IPA & Internal TN programmes
  - 3 External Interreg NDICI TN programmes
EU Macro-regional strategies

4 MRS, 19 EU MSs, 9 non-EU countries
### C: Interregional – Four "networking" programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESPON</strong></td>
<td>European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (studies, spatial planning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>URBACT</strong></td>
<td>Exchange between Europe's cities on integrated urban development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERACT</strong></td>
<td>Cooperation and exchange network for territorial Interreg programmes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interreg Europe</strong></td>
<td>Capitalisation among all EU regions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11 policy objectives are simplified and consolidated into 5:

**A FOCUS ON FIVE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, WHERE THE EU IS BEST PLACED TO DELIVER**

Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027:

- **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses

- **a Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change

- **a more Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks

- **a more Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare

- **a Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

**Horizontal issues: administrative capacity building, cooperation outside the programme area**
Policy Objective 2 (compulsory for Interreg programmes) (Reminder)

- A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management

- PO2 Specific Objectives (SOs) [Text still under final review by lawyers-linguists]:
  
  i. Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  
  
  iii. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E
  
  iv. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches
  
  v. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
  
  vi. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
  
  vii. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
  
  viii. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy
Two new Interreg specific objectives (5 POs + 2 ISOs)

- **ISO1: Better cooperation governance**
  - Focus on support to cross border cooperation beyond funding
  - Link with actions under the Border Focal Point
  - Not an extension of TA

- **ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe**
  - Including protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international organisations
3 DRAFT IPA III Programming Framework (Art.10 ETC)
IPA III in a nutshell

• No country allocation defined upfront

• 5 thematic windows

• Performance-based:
  - Policy relevance
  - Technical maturity
  - Performance in enlargement agenda, i.e. commitment and progress in implementing reforms

• Fair-share
IPA III Windows

1. Rule of law, fundamental Rights and democracy
2. Good governance, *acquis* alignment, strategic communication and good neighbourly relations
3. Green agenda and sustainable connectivity
4. Competitiveness and inclusive growth
5. Territorial and cross border cooperation
The table above shows the indicative allocation for the period 2021-2027 to support the thematic priorities of IPA III programming framework. Prices are expressed in million Euro.

Current prices are calculated by applying annually a fixed deflator of 2% to the amounts in 2018 prices. Totals do not tally due to rounding.
More coherence with IPA-IPA CBC Programmes
Programme areas

AL-KS
Same as IPA II

BiH-ME
Same as IPA II

KS-MK
Same as IPA II

ME-AL
Inclusion of the municipality of Kolašin

ME-KS
Inclusion of 3 additional ME municipalities

MK-AL
Same as IPA II

RS-BiH
Same as IPA II

RS-ME
Same as IPA II

RS-MK
Inclusion of 4 additional municipalities of the City of Skopje
# Programme resources and priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
<td>IMBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Resources in M€ over the period 2021-2027

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AL - KS</th>
<th>BIH-ME</th>
<th>MK-AL</th>
<th>ME-AL</th>
<th>ME-KS</th>
<th>RS-BiH</th>
<th>RS-ME</th>
<th>RS-MK</th>
<th>KS-MK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thematic priorities (EU co-financing)</td>
<td>7,56</td>
<td>7,56</td>
<td>10,80</td>
<td>10,71</td>
<td>7,56</td>
<td>12,60</td>
<td>7,56</td>
<td>3,15</td>
<td>7,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance (100% EU funded)</td>
<td>0,84</td>
<td>0,84</td>
<td>1,20</td>
<td>1,19</td>
<td>0,84</td>
<td>1,40</td>
<td>0,84</td>
<td>0,35</td>
<td>0,84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8,40</td>
<td>8,40</td>
<td>12,00</td>
<td>11,90</td>
<td>8,40</td>
<td>14,00</td>
<td>8,40</td>
<td>3,50</td>
<td>8,40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National co-financing</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>2,12</td>
<td>1,89</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>2,22</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>0,555</td>
<td>1,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td>9,73</td>
<td>9,73</td>
<td>14,12</td>
<td>13,79</td>
<td>9,73</td>
<td>16,22</td>
<td>9,73</td>
<td>4,06</td>
<td>9,73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Selected priorities per CBC programmes

- **TP 1**: Employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders; X X X X
- **TP2**: Environment protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management; X X X X X X
- **TP5**: Tourism and cultural and natural heritage; X X X X X X X X
- **TP7**: Governance, planning and administrative capacity building of local and regional authorities; (Mainstreamed) X X X X X X X X
- **TP8**: Competitiveness, business and SME development, trade and investment; X

---

[European Commission Logo]
Embedding EUSAIR & EUSDR, and indirectly the Investment Plan for the WB

More than a year has passed since the discussion on the Guidance Paper for Embedding of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) into EU Programmes at the meeting of EUSDR National Coordinators in November 2019 in Zagreb. With the support of the EUSDR National Coordinators and the Danube Strategy Point, the Task Force Embedding (EMB-DR) has been set up to coordinate the activities of EUSDR stakeholders for integrating the Strategy efficiently and effectively into the European Structural and Investment Funds in the 2021-2027 programming period.

From the very beginning, it was clear that the revised EUSDR Action Plan would play a key role in the embedding process. However, during the first two EMB-DR meetings in January and February 2020, it...
EIP: 8 Priorities and 10 Flagships at a glance

GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW, PAR

TRANSPORT

I CONNECT EAST-WEST

II CONNECT NORTH-SOUTH

III CONNECT COASTAL REGIONS

ENERGY

V COAL TRANSITION

VI RENOVATION WAVE

VII WASTE AND WASTE WATER

GREEN AGENDA

CRM & ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT

INNOVATION AGENDA

I CONNECT EAST-WEST

II CONNECT NORTH-SOUTH

III CONNECT COASTAL REGIONS

IV RENEWABLE ENERGY

V RENOVATION WAVE

VI RENOVATION WAVE

VII WASTE AND WASTE WATER

DIGITAL TRANSITION

X YOUTH GUARANTEE

IX SUPPORT COMPETITIVENESS

VIII DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
## Links between EIP flagships and EUSAIR flagships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flags from Annex</th>
<th>EUSAIR 2021-2027 Flagships</th>
<th>Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems</th>
<th>Development of the network of sustainable tourism businesses and clusters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flagships from Annex</td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 1: BLUE GROWTH</strong></td>
<td>FOSTERING QUADRUPLE HELIX TIES IN THE FIELDS OF MARINE TECHNOLOGIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 2: CONNECTING THE REGION</strong></td>
<td>PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY, DIVERSIFICATION AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE FISHERIES AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 3: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</strong></td>
<td>THE ADRATIC-IONIAN MULTI-MODAL CORRIDORS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 4: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</strong></td>
<td>POWER NETWORKS AND MARKET FOR A GREEN ADRATIC-IONIAN REGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 5: GREEN ADRIATICIONIAN REGION</strong></td>
<td>INTEGRATED NATURAL GAS CORRIDORS AND MARKET FOR A GREEN ADRATIC-IONIAN REGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 6: DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BUSINESSES AND CLUSTERS</strong></td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF LOGISTICS FOR DIRECT LNG USE AS A CLEAN FUEL FOR THE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 7: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS</strong></td>
<td>PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ADRIATIC-IONIAN SUB/REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 8: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADRIATIC-IONIAN REGIONAL STRATEGIC GOALS</strong></td>
<td>PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 9: STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE ADRATIC-IONIAN REGION</strong></td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BUSINESSES AND CLUSTERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PILLAR 10: STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE ADRATIC-IONIAN REGION</strong></td>
<td>REINFORCEMENT OF THE NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BUSINESSES AND CLUSTERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Strong link indicates a direct and strong connection.
- Some links indicate a connection but may be less direct or strong.

Credits: Igor Zidarič

---

[European Commission logo]
## Links between EIP flagships and EUSDR flagships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EUSDR Flagships</th>
<th>PA 6 - Biodiversity, Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flagships</strong></td>
<td><strong>PA 6 - Biodiversity, Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 1: Contribute to improve water management and port infrastructure &amp; management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 2: Strengthen police offensive - cooperation on border control, inspection systems of border control, and good practice of the EU in this area to improve the rule of law and governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 3: Intensify cooperation of the EU and the Member States in the fields of socio-economic and environmental governance in order to better protect greenhouse gases, reduce pollution, and maintain soil fertility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 4: Explore the use of clean and sustainable innovative and high-quality digital technologies (AI) and applications of knowledge in the field of environmental governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 5: Support for regional and local institutions to develop and/or reinforce plans for submission of medium-term disaster prevention and preparedness plans for the Danube Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action 6: Strengthen the capacity of EU and local states to improve the prevention of disaster risks and the capacity of the Danube Region to address the impacts of climate change.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credits:** Igor Zidarčić
6 Need for reinforced cooperation between EU programmes – Benefits for ALL!
### Interreg IPA Programmes and other Union programmes

#### Enhanced synergies

**COMPATIBILITY**
- Harmonisation of funding rules; flexible co-funding schemes; pooling resources at EU level

**COHERENCE & COMPLEMENTARITY**
- Alignment of strategic priorities in support of a common vision

### INTERREG IPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interreg IPA</th>
<th>Other Union Programmes, including</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Digital Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA III “mainstream”</td>
<td>ESF+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime &amp; Fisheries Fund</td>
<td>EU4Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting Europe Facility</td>
<td>AMF, ISF &amp; BMVI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Just Transition Mechanism

#### Recovery and Resilience Facility
# Need for reinforced working cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic and targeted cooperation between DG REGIO and other line DGs (NEAR, AGRI, RTD, HOME, MARE, etc) during the PA negotiation and the overall programming process</th>
<th>Streamlining funding support under the key horizontal political priorities at programme level and enhance complementarity on funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage Member States’ Managing Authorities to closely collaborate with other ESIF Managing Authorities, NIPACs &amp; others to establish coherence and synergies between the different funds</td>
<td>Continuous collaboration between DG REGIO and other line DGs (NEAR, AGRI, RTD, HOME, MARE, etc) regarding Implementation, communication and monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The critical success factors

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether
Principles underlying the strategic approach

• Partnership and transparency principles into real actions

• Critical role of social partners and other CSOs in promoting regional cooperation and people-to-people relations -> building bridges.

• Development of policy solutions through joint efforts across regional borders.

• Need for more:
  ➢ Bottom-up cooperation involving the social partners, socio-economic agents and civil society organisations, as well as any engaged actors from the entire geographical area, using the quintuple helix approach (university-industry-government-public-environment).
  ➢ Extensive and regular cooperation with the European Commission and its delegations.
  ➢ Cross-sectoral and cross-territorial coordination, particularly with respect to institutional capacity building
  ➢ Leveraging of other EU, local and/or private resources
  ➢ Coordinated action aimed at reducing bureaucratic obstacles
Coordination mechanisms at different levels

- Programming -> potential synergies with national or other EU funds.
- Implementation -> through coordinated calls for proposals that are either joint calls, logical sequence of calls and/or coordinated selection criteria.
- Projects -> coordination among beneficiaries to achieve the highest possible level of synergies.
Stronger need for strategic and territorial focus
Project EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA): an example for a more strategic approach
EPPA project (2019-2022)

Overall objective:

- To strengthen the implementation of the EU environmental acquis in the Western Balkans and Turkey in areas relevant for addressing trans-boundary environmental issues.

The following areas have been identified as having an unique value as transboundary sites of protected areas, hosting large carnivores and providing important ecosystem services.

1. Mavrovo (North Macedonia) – Korab Mountain (Albania) – Muravite Mountain (Albania)
2. Mali i Gropa-Bize Martanash (Albania) – Shebenik-Jabllanice (Albania) – Mavrovo (North Macedonia)
3. Tara (Serbia) – Drina (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
4. Durmitor (Montenegro) – Sutjeska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
5. Prokletije (Montenegro) – Valbona Valley (Albania) – Gashi River Reserve (Albania)
6. Buna River-Velipoja (Albania) – Lake Shkoder (Albania, Montenegro) – Lovcen (Montenegro)
7. Nisze-Kuzuf – Jakupica (North Macedonia)
8. Sutjeska – Cernjik Tovoriste – Vranica (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
9. Djerzep – Scala Planina (Serbia)
10. Golija – Suva planina (Serbia)
11. Ohrid – Prespa – Pelister (Albania, North Macedonia)

Green infrastructure in the Western Balkans region and proposed priority areas for conservation based on their biodiversity value and ecosystem services importance.

The priority areas are identified by number, name and location in the next page.

Complex assessment of Green Infrastructure

- Core Green Infrastructure
- Subsidiary Green Infrastructure
- No Green Infrastructure identified
- Priority areas

*The designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with the UNSC 1244 and the I2 Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Prespa area: an example of possible territorial focus
EU for Prespa

• Possible combined operations with IPA III AAP 2021 Prespa AD and/or IPARD:
  
  - Construction of a border crossing point with Greece (Markova Noga)
  - Decreased pollution resulting of human activities
  - Increased share of Environmentally Friendly Agriculture
  - Sustainable tourism product promoted and diversified
  - Strengthened cross-border exchange
Conclusions

#EUbudget, #EUSolidarity, #StrongerTogether
More strategic approach – Benefits for ALL!

1. Benefits for your Interreg IPA programmes:
   - Bigger impact (more ambitious projects)
   - Bigger projects pipeline (better absorption)
   - Higher visibility (political leaders, citizens, EU, etc.)
   - Better links to policy-makers

2. Benefits for the macro-regions:
   - Development of the macro-regions
   - A more horizontal EU accession process for WB6
   - Experience from the programmes (knowledge of the issues)
   - Contacts with policy-makers
   - Funding
More strategic approach – Benefits for ALL!

3. Benefits for the potential applicants:

- Alignment of the requirements
- Higher visibility
- Access to post 2020 European Territorial Cooperation policy innovations:
  - Simple financial instruments with a grant component
  - Joint territorial instruments
  - Small project funds, projects of limited financial volumes or people-to-people projects
- Promotion of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation
In recognition of the fact that natural areas do not end at the border, in the future, more importance should be given to cooperative work beyond borders!
The 2 relevant MRS (EUSAIR & EUSDR) and the related TN programmes can support the development of environmental networks and ecological connectivity elements between them i.e. green corridors!
Next generation IPA programmes’ expected results

- Capitalise on 2000-2020 track record about:
  - Species conservation and monitoring
  - Protected areas’ site management and restoration
  - Protected areas’ network coherence and connectivity
  - Promotion of transboundary sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and circular economies
  - Exchanging knowledge and engaging stakeholders from other sectors
  - Marine Monitoring, planning and management

- Enhance complementarity and cooperation between EU territorial policies, Natura 2000 and other EU funds requirements.

- Be key in promoting the coherence and connectivity of the Natura 2000 Network.
Questions & feedbacks
The EU is built on solidarity
Thank you

© European Union 2021

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Pictures, source: Unsplash