



Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and European  
Integration

European Territorial Cooperation  
MED Programme 2007-2013



## IPA Capitalisation Seminar

Hotel "Maestral", Budva, Montenegro  
20-21/03/2014

### Main conclusions

The MED capitalisation approach is, differently from other programmes, composed of various elements. These elements (animated clustering process together with MED projects, a specific call for the setting up and implementation of capitalization projects launched in spring 2013, bottom up activities initiated inside the projects themselves, etc.) are all contributing to the development of an attitude in paying attention to the existent beyond its own sector.

In the framework of its capitalisation process, the MED Programme has currently entered in a new strategic phase: the collection of lessons learnt and orientations for the elaboration of the new programming period. The capitalization activities implemented are fundamental to understand how to build the new programme based on results achieved as well as in learning what was wrong to improve for the future.

In this respect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) organized an IPA MED Capitalisation Seminar for the projects approved within the 7 Calls for proposals of the Mediterranean Transnational Cooperation Programme (MED) with a many fold objective:

- to utilize, to valorize and to further build on the knowledge and the results of the MED projects working with IPA partners;
- to fill knowledge-gaps by linking actors with complementary thematic specialization, experiences, methodological approaches or geographical scope;
- To increase the visibility of the projects and the Programme in the IPA area;
- To strengthen strategic thematic networks between the IPA and the rest of the Programme area;

- To encourage the "use" of IPA partners in building up synergies between MED, Adriatic and SEE projects which could be utilized in the future;
- To contribute to the development of the future transnational cooperation in the area.

After the introduction of **Marija Maras** (MFAEI) the first session was developed around some frontal presentations offered by **Kirill Dimanopoulos** (the IPA Liaison Office Thessaloniki) and **Ivan Curzolo** (expert in territorial cooperation, moderator of the two-days event) aiming at depicting the context for the discussion, offering a general understanding on the state of art of IPA MED implementation and achievements as well as the programming process 2014 - 2020 for the interventions relevant for the MED geographical area.

These introductory remarks paved the way for the first round of projects' contributions, focusing on the achievements and difficulties of IPA Partners in MED Programme 2007-2013. Experiences and inputs were offered by **Tatjana Rajić** (Expeditio Kotor), **Dejan Đurđević** (Port of Bar), **Nexhad Kapidani** (Maritime Safety Department of Montenegro). Several topics were covered and different experiences highlighted however, among all, the discussion focused around three elements of peculiar "IPA success":

- the effectiveness in achieving and maintaining political sustainability (in terms of political interest and willingness to transfer project achievements into policy, taken over by the national legislative process) and a good practice in this sense was demonstrated by **SOSTENUTO** project;
- the possibility given by transnational cooperation as a tool for gaining in advance some effects/ benefits of EU membership. This is the case of **MEDESS-4MS** project, where Montenegro achieved its participation in EU LRIT Data Centre (satellite long range tracking and identification of vessels) as the only non EU country;
- the ability to set up an internal strategy for properly planning and managing the participation to EU resources bids and projects, allocating tasks and resources, as the Port of Bar demonstrated by different examples and its impressive projects portfolio, including **DEVELOP MED**.

The afternoon session was as well introduced by some vivid presentations. The focus of the discussion was shifted toward the capitalization concept and project partners of MED projects approved in the framework of the specific capitalization call offered an interesting state of art of the activities carried out so far. **Tea Ivanišević** (Regione Marche), **Vedad Suljić** (REIC Sarajevo) and **Ognjen Kuljača** (Brodarski Institut Ltd Zagreb) presented respectively CITEK, URBAN EMPATY and CREATIVE MED. Additionally, discussion around potential for synergies and share of information was supported by the presentation of projects approved and implemented in the framework of territorial cooperation instruments partially overlapping with the MED geographical scope. Beside additional inputs provided by **Dejan Đurđević** (Port of Bar) and **Nexhad Kapidani** (Maritime Safety Department of Montenegro) some flashlights of genuine cooperation were provided by **Nikola Ivanović** introducing to the audience projects SEE DigiTV and SEE-TV Web.

The last part of the afternoon session was entirely devoted to the future of territorial cooperation. Once introduced the main available elements in relation to the programming process of MED as well as the three new transnational instruments stemming from the current SEE (Danube, Adriatic Ionian and Balkan Mediterranean) participants were divided into three groups, each one led by one capitalization project.

The task of each group was to debate and reflect around the lessons learnt in the framework of IPA 2007 - 2013 and how these could be furthered for progressing into 2014 - 2020. A set of guiding questions was as well offered as follows:

- 1) Considering the new framework that is showing evident overlaps in terms of geographical scope of the new transnational programmes covering the MED area do you consider that thematic complementarities between the instruments should be sought or overlapping is unavoidable? How coordination between programmes shall be fostered?
- 2) If complementarities are the solution, which programme shall do what? Why?
- 3) What is the "transnational added value" by your experience? Are there thematic issues that are more suitable to be tackled transnationally?
- 4) IPA integration has shown significant progress in the last decade. From a small group of "pioneer" partners added via specific additional calls of the CARDS (period 2000 - 2006) last generation of transnational projects feature strong partnership with shared management and contents responsibilities. What's next? What could be "additional added value". Are there other specific IPA needs that shall be taken into consideration and have not been explored yet?
- 5) 2014 - 2020: any concrete project idea in the pipeline?

#### Working Group 1

This working group was composed by representative of different IPA partners, MFAEI, the Lead Partner of CITEK MED capitalization project that included in its implementation one previous IPA partner, representative of the Regional Development agency of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County and other partner representatives of SEE DIGI TV and SEE TV WEB from the SEE Programme.

The discussion of the round table started with the introduction from working group members in relation to the importance of including the topics such as environmental risk management, transport and mobility to the next operational programme (OP) since according to them these all represent cross-cutting elements that shall be considered in all future Programmes and can not be tackled at a smaller scale. It has been added that in relation to the Maritime sector is important to enhance the presence of the environmental protection as a value per se.

The representative of the Regional Development Agency of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County took the opportunity to mention that Programmes are always referring to the TEN-T while in relation to the transport corridors there is nothing in south of Adriatic and this emphasis should be changed.

Following to the discussion, the working group members agreed that the transport is a very high priority for IPA partners in order also to catch up with EU guidelines and regulations and should represent the priority for all future Programmes. Furthermore, the accessibility topic has been discussed and how it is going to be covered by the future ETC.

In order to overcome a close separation of existing SEE partnerships that will not be supported anymore, group introduced the discussion on the so called "20%" flexibility rule that allows the use of 20% of the resources for the involvement of partners not part of the programme area. Clarifications shall be carried out however whether this possibility is offered in the IPA regulatory framework as well.

The Lead Partner's representative of ongoing MED capitalization project explained the generation of the project idea and decision for involving in the MED capitalization process previous IPA partners (considered IPA partner in the phase of the project preparation, submission and approval as before Croatian access to the EU on 1st July 2014) and its roles, activities and tasks within the project and future perspectives that could come out and from which partner and its local stakeholders may benefit.

The discussion among the round table continued with some reflections in relation to the MED Programme and its eligibility rules - here some future harmonization is being foreseen, and about the alignment of the MED Programme thematic objective with Macro-regional Strategy for Adriatic Ionian. Of four pillars of the future MED strategy\*

- Innovation
- Green economy
- Maritime issues
- 4th Thematic, more transversal, Governance - might be related to the Macro-regional Strategy for Adriatic Ionian

### Working Group 2

The group could not manage to find the essential differences among different programmes except their territorial covering. Each program sets its own priorities but in the end projects implemented within the framework of those programs are dealing on similar issues. This was the case for the past and it will probably be reflected also in the next 2014 - 2020.

The main problems discussed, regarding problems for IPA countries in the programming period 2007-2013, were as follows:

1. *Lack of knowledge at operational level:* in the current programming period (2007-2013) most of partners faced a huge lack of operational knowledge in organizations/institutions responsible for the coordination of a certain program. This lack of knowledge slowed down basic procedures which partners had to implement. This is caused due to poor information flow within the same organization. It is the case that they are sometimes the bottle neck of the whole programme and complicate implementation of a project. It is often stated that partners are exposed to unnecessary difficulties due to such problems stated above.

The group suggested continuing in carrying out capacity building actions (events) at this level, but also paying attention to such problems which occur and obviously represent an undue

burden.

2. *Lack of knowledge and information about programs and how to use available funds:* IPA PPs have faced huge lack of knowledge and information within organizations which are eligible to use funds available for their country/region. This is caused by many factors and one of this is preoccupation with regular business activity and hesitancy. Many organizations do not have adequate knowledge to write project proposals in the form required by the EC. This lack of knowledge discourages them to allocate time needed to write a project proposal. They rather rely on other external partners which come to them with their project proposal. In such behaviour they miss opportunities to use funds available.

It is the case that many organizations do not have information about the possibilities to propose a project funded by the EU. Even they are not well informed about their responsibilities within the implementation phase of a project.

Bearing in mind such basic problems, the group came to the conclusion that dissemination events are useful tools, especially while pooling together organizations/institutions with experience and those without. This would lead to higher usage rate of available funds, and eventually generate new jobs.

### Working Group 3

Overlap between MED, DANUBE, Adriatic-Ionian, Balkan Med Program: overlaps are expected, or even unavoidable, due to geography. Several countries can participate in two or more programme. This is not necessarily a minus.

Programming process: it is still at an early stage therefore difficult to put forward comments on that. However topics the group considered of interest:

- Protection and management of culture and natural resource
- Sustainable mobility
- Multimodal transport
- Urban transport
- Reduced emissions
- Access to coastal resources
- Research and innovation
- Competitiveness (but not only of SMEs, more region based)
- Greater integration between countries and SMEs inside the region

Expected added value of IPA participation?

Increased partnership/networking possibilities and knowledge transfer.

What to leave out?

Difficult to mention, thematically, simplified relationship (procedures etc.) between project partners and national institutions from process perspective.

What to improve?

- Unification of application process (too many differences for each tool)
- Implementation of training for project partner – before application and during the life of the project, this would reflect stronger implementation
- Stability of program officers on national and transnational level (basically, cut down the rotation of people on these positions to at least the programme duration)

The biggest regional issues:

- Maritime travel (local and transnational)
- Improve maritime accessibility
- Multimodal transport

Basically, transportation is big problem in IPA countries therefore it shall remain eligible for all new programmes. It appears that without serious effort on creative solution of transport issues development would be seriously hampered and all the other topics of interest (less pollution, research, competitiveness, mobility) can be less effective if transport issues are not tackled and accessibility improved.