South East Europe
Transnational Cooperation Programme

Annual Report
2014

Draft approved by MC on 11 June 2015

European Territorial Co-operation 2007 – 2013

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1   PROGRAMME IDENTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: European Territorial Cooperation
	Eligible area concerned: Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Greece; Hungary; Italy (regions: Lombardia, Prov Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen, Prov. Autonoma Trento, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise, Puglia Basilicata), the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro, Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Ukraine (Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast, Odessa Oblast)
	Programming period: 2007-2013
	Programme number (CCI No.): 2007CB163PO069
	Programme title: **South East Europe (SEE) Transnational Co-operation Programme**
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: **2014**
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The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme submits its 8th Report of the Programme according to Article 67 (EC) No 1083/2006 to the European Commission. The 8th Annual Report refers to the year 2014 and has been approved by the Monitoring Committee by written procedure on 11 June 2015.

2   OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Main tasks and actions for Programme implementation undertaken in 2014 can be summarised as follows:

- In 2014 all projects from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th call completed successfully their activities. That makes in total 82 projects. By the end of the year 10 2nd call projects could be closed administratively and financially (1 more was closed already in 2013). The remaining projects will submit their final progress reports in the first half of 2015. Before that, however, they were able to submit a Final Activity Report (summarising the whole project implementation) and a Monitoring Wizard (indicating EU funds invested in specific thematic codes[1]). Based on the latter data on the physical progress in programme implementation could be gathered for the current report.

- SEE Capitalisation was brought to an end and the main outcomes were presented during the Annual programme conference held on 24-25 September 2014 in Ljubljana. In addition, an in-house evaluation of the capitalisation process was carried out, which revealed that projects appreciated the synergy-building effect and expected such an initiative to be continued by the three new programmes following in the footsteps of SEE.

- In 2014 altogether 163 progress reports and applications for reimbursement of the projects were checked by the JTS. The project monitoring tasks of JTS were also completed through 25 project visits. Throughout the year 64 project modifications were processed. The number of modification requests increased in the final phase of the project implementations.

- Regarding the financial progress of the projects, a total amount of EUR 136,192,268.11 ERDF and 4,697,733.98 EUR IPA contribution was reimbursed to the Lead partners until 31 December 2014.

- In the framework of the IPA integration process the IPA compliance assessment was finalised for Albania in Mach 2014 and for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in June 2014. (In case of the 4 other IPA countries: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the compliance assessment was finalised in 2013).

- The ENPI part of the projects (6 projects granted the contract within the additional ENPI call for partners from the Republic of Moldova and 1 within the 4th CfPs) started implementation in 2014. The programme level pre-financing of ENPI funds had been received in February 2014 from the EC and payment process to the ENPI beneficiaries was initiated in April 2014.

- The Audit Plan for 2014 was approved by the GoA at the GoA meeting of 26 March 2014, including the sampling method for the sample check of operations and the list of projects and partners selected for the sample check of 2014; the sample check of the projects was performed during the 2nd quarter of the year and the final audit reports had been delivered by early November 2014. General opinion - management and control system "works well, only minor improvements are needed", i.e. the system is classified into the first category;

- The last SEE Annual conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 24-25 September 2014. In total, ca. 340 programme stakeholders attended the two-day event. The first day was dedicated to showcasing programme and project achievements including through field trips in Ljubljana and the vicinity. The agenda for the second day made a link between SEE achievements and the

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1 Commission   Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02006R1828-20111201

preparation of the three new transnational programmes that will replace SEE in the region – ADRION, Balkan-Mediterranean and Danube.

- In collaboration with the MED programme SEE organised a communication training aimed at supporting projects in better disseminating their results towards project closure. The event took place at the beginning of June in Bled, Slovenia and welcomed more than 100 project implementers from both programme areas.

2.1 Achievements and analysis of the progress

2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

Set of Ex-ante quantified OUTPUT indicators for the Operational Programme:

The following table reports the projects successfully finalised by end of 2014[2].

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
Indicators for the priority axes												
Priority axis 1: Total no. of projects implemented to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	**11**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**29**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Priority axis 2: Total no. of projects implemented to protect and improve the environment	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	5	0	**18**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**36**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Priority axis 3: Total no. of projects implemented to improve the accessibility	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	0	**9**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**37**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Priority axis 4: Total no. of projects implemented to develop transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	3	0	**14**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**28**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total no. of projects P1-P4		0	0	0	0	0	13	28	11	0	**52**	**130**

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2 According to approval date of final progress report

The ERDF funding has been fully committed to 122 projects after four calls for proposal. Originally it was foreseen to support 130 projects with an average budget of EUR 1.5 million each. However, the specific character of the 3rd call strategic projects required much higher financial support, which is three to four times more than ordinary projects. Thus the programme budget was not able to support a greater number of projects. In 2014 a little more than 43% of all projects could be finalised. The majority of projects await administrative closure and final payment in the course of 2015. Therefore, the initial target for the successfully finalised projects will be fulfilled at 94% by the end of the programme.

For more information on closed projects please refer to section 2.1.6 *Qualitative analysis* and *chapter 3 Implementation by Priority*.

The following table reports the degree of co-operation within all SEE projects approved in the programming period 2007-2013. The information is taken from the approved Application Forms:

Indicators reflecting the degree of co-operation		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
No. of projects respecting only **two** of the following criteria: Joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	0	0	3	5	0	9	0	0	0	**17**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**29**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of projects respecting only **three** of the following criteria: Joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	0	0	8	1	0	3	0	0	0	**12**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**104**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of projects respecting **four** of the following criteria: Joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	Achievement	0	0	29	20	0	44	0	0	0	**93**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**26**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Set of ex-ante quantified RESULT-indicators for Priority Axes and Areas of Intervention:

The following table reports on the number of contributions to the programme result indicators made by the 122 the projects financed through the SEE programme (2007-2013). The data covers contributions reported by end of 2014.

Result indicators corresponding with the objectives of Priority Axes and Areas of Intervention		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
P1: Total no. of contributions to facilitated innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and enhanced integration and economic relations in the co-operation area	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	16	37	0	**57**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**88**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to established technology and innovation oriented networks in specific technology fields	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	**15**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**38**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to more effective provision	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	15	0	**26**	

Result indicators corresponding with the objectives of Priority Axes and Areas of Intervention		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
of collective business and innovation support especially for SME	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**28**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to improved innovation governance and increased public awareness with regard to innovation	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	0	**16**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**22**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P2: Total no. of contributions to protected and improved environment	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	15	20	72	0	**107**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**108**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to improved integrated water management and flood risk prevention structures and systems	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	0	**11**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**23**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to improved transnational risk prevention structures and systems	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	20	0	**29**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**34**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to co-ordinated activities on management schemes of natural assets and protected areas	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	19	0	**24**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**27**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to co-ordinated activities on energy and resource efficient technologies, services and policies	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	29	0	**43**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**24**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P3: Total no. of contributions to the co-ordinated preparation of accessibility networks and supported multi-modality	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	34	0	**45**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**111**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to the co-ordinated	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	19	0	**24**	

Result indicators corresponding with the objectives of Priority Axes and Areas of Intervention		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
promotion, planning and operation of primary and secondary transportation networks	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**36**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to co-ordinated activities to lessen the digital divide among states and regions especially in the case of market failure	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	10	0	**13**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**32**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to co-ordinated activities for increased efficiency of existing transport and to the stimulated shift to environmentally friendly transportation systems	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	**8**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**43**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P4: Total no. of contributions to developed and implemented integrated strategies for metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements, optimised polycentric structures in the area and used cultural values for sustainable development	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	37	0	**56**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**83**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to build up and disseminated strategies, skills and knowledge and pilot action for tackling crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	17	0	**25**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**27**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to the provision of partners with new tools for the formulation of their role and the formation of new partnerships for functional growth areas	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	5	0	**14**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**27**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of contributions to improved joint conservation and better utilisation of cultural values for development and sustainable tourism	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	15	0	**17**	
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**29**
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

| Total no. of contributions | Achievement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 53 | 180 | 0 | **265** | |

Result indicators corresponding with the objectives of Priority Axes and Areas of Intervention		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Target 2007-2015
	Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	390
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

A contribution is defined as a change, i.e. improvement of a situation in the field, which the project is addressing (linked to Area of Intervention), and also in relation to a certain Thematic Code [annex II of Council Regulation (EC) 1828/2006]. Each project can achieve positive change within several AoIs and Thematic Codes and has to provide evidence for this. The contribution is a consequence of several achieved project outputs and results that contribute to the positive change. The above table is based on data collected from 93% of all SEE projects. According to the collected data by the end of 2014 the contributions achieved reach 67.95% of the initial target.

2.1.2   Information on the financial progress of the Operational Programme

2.1.2.1   ERDF Financial progress

The Operational Programme has allocated ERDF funds per each priority according to the following table (EC decision 28. 11.2013 C(2013) 8528).

Priority axes	EU Funding (a)	National public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d) = (a) + (b) + (c)	Co-financing rate (e) = (a)/(d)	For information	
						EIB contributions	Other funding
P1 Innovation	44,236,370.00	7,806,418.00	0	52,042,788.00	0,85	0	0
P2 Environment	56,587,812.00	9,986,085.00	0	66,573,897.00	0,85	0	0
P3 Accessibility	43,867,491.00	7,741,322.00	0	51,608,813.00	0,85	0	0
P4 Sustainable growth areas	50,335,435.00	8,882,724.00	0	59,218,159.00	0,85	0	0
P5 Technical Assistance	12,448,537.00	4,149,512.00	0	16,598,049.00	0,75	0	0
TOTAL	**207,475,645.00**	**38,566,061.00**	**0**	**246,041,706.00**		**0**	**0**

Achievements in financial terms by the end of 2013:

The financial closure of the 1st Call projects (40) was finalised in 2013. 11 projects of the 2nd call were also financially closed in the year of 2014. The financial implementation of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th call projects (71 projects), as well as the financial implementation of the TA budget, was ongoing. The total amount of the ERDF contribution **paid out to the Lead Partners by the end of 2014** was **EUR 136,192,268.11, while the ERDF contribution paid out to the TA beneficiaries was EUR 9,966,728.96**

The table on page 17 of the report cumulates the financial data by the end of year 2014. The column "c" presents the **total eligible expenditure** included in Applications of Reimbursement approved by the JTS and **certified** by the Certifying Authority (projects within the Priorities 1-4), as well as the **total eligible TA expenditure** included in TA Applications of Reimbursement approved by the MA/JTS and **certified** by the Certifying Authority, considering **cumulative** amounts by the end of 2014.

The total amount of the **certified eligible expenditure included in Applications for Payment and submitted to the EC by the end of 2014** was **EUR 176,033,556.47** corresponding to **EUR 148,601,387.97** of **ERDF contribution** (Application for Payment Nr. 27, cut-off date 29.12.2014, cumulative amounts). Together with the total advance payment received from the Commission (18,837,448.00 EUR) it is 167,438,835.97EUR. This is 826,578.97 EUR more than the n+2/n+3 target of the Programme for 2014.

Financial information according to Art 67, paragraph 2(b) of Reg. 1083:

1. Interim payments (ERDF) received from EC by 31 December 2014

(Application for payments No. 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25):

Priorities	ERDF amounts (EUR)
1	8,280,998.02
2	12,052,404.27
3	11,348,754.06
4	10,648,204.77
5	1,008,893.60
Total	43,339,254.72

2. Payments to beneficiaries by 31 December 2014:

Priorities	ERDF amounts (EUR)
1	28,624,378.43
2	43,704,866.47
3	28,864,209.24
4	34,998,813.97
5	9,966,728.96
Total	**146,159,997.07**

	Total funding of the operational programme (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation rate In %
	a	b	c	d	e = d/a
1. Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship	52,042,788.00	52,042,788.00	34,585,788.52	34,585,788.52	66,46 %
2. Protection and improvement of the environment	66,573,897.00	66,573,897.00	51,891,980.96	51,891,980.96	77,95
3. Improvement of the accessibility	51,608,813.00	51,608,813.00	35,998,760.66	35,998,760.66	69,75
4. Develpment of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas	59,218,159.00	59,218,159.00	43,285,681.21	43,285,681.21	73,09
5. Technical assistance to support implementation and capacity building	16,598,049.00	16,598,049.00	10,271,345.11	10,271,345.11	61,88
Grand total	246,041,706.00	246,041,706.00	176,033,556.46	176,033,556.46	71,55

2.1.2.2   IPA Financial progress

In the 2^(nd) phase of the programme implementation (2010-2013), the IPA funds are distributed by Priority axes according to the following table (EC decision 28. 11.2013 C(2013) 8528).

	EU Funding	National public funding	National private funding	Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information	
Priority axes	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) = (a) + (b) + (c)	(e) = (a)/(d)	EIB contributions	Other funding
P1 Innovation	3,721,564.00	656,747.00		4,378,311.00	0,85	0	0
P2 Environment	4,337,202.00	765,389.00		5,102,591.00	0,85	0	0
P3 Accessibility	3,690,163.00	651,205.00		4,341,368.00	0,85	0	0
P4 Sustainable growth areas	3,101,071.00	547,248.00		3,648,319.00	0,85	0	0
P5 Technical Assistance	1,650,000.00	291,176.00		1,941,176.00	0,85	0	0
TOTAL	**16,500,000.00**	**2,911,765.00**		**19,411,765.00**		**0**	**0**

Achievements in financial terms by the end of 2014:

The total amount of the IPA contribution paid out to the Lead Partners by the end of 2014 was **4,697,733.98 EUR**, while the IPA contribution paid out to the TA beneficiaries was **382 294,50 EUR.**

**1. Interim payments (IPA) received from EC by 31 December 2014
(Application for payments No. 20-26.):**

Priorities	IPA amounts (EUR)
1	847,650.31
2	1, 115, 178.29
3	815,952.21
4	737,589.34
5	309,339.16
Total	3,825,709.31

2. Payments to beneficiaries by 31 December 2014:

Priorities	IPA amounts (EUR)
1	1,049,188.03
2	1,571,099.12
3	1,135,014.09
4	942,432.74
5	382,294.50
Total	**5,080,028.48**

	Total funding of the operational programme (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation rate In %
	a	b	c	d	e = d/a
1. Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship	4,378,311.00	4,378,311.00	1,360,661.35	1,360,661.35	31,08
2. Protection and improvement of the environment	5,102,591.00	5,102,591.00	1,959,644.02	1,959,644.02	38,40
3. Improvement of the accessibility	4,341,368.00	4,341,368.00	1,612,435.54	1,612,435.54	37,14
4. Develpment of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas	3,648,319.00	3,648,319.00	1,419,979.51	1,419,979.51	38,92
5. Technical assistance to support implementation and capacity building	1,941,176.00	1,941,176.00	457,115.92	457,115.92	23,55
Grand total	19,411,765.00	19,411,765.00	6,809,836.34	6,809,836.34	35,08

2.1.2.3 ENPI Financial progress

The ENPI funds are distributed by priority axes according to the following table (EC decision 15.02.2012, C(2012) 1077).

Priority axes	EU Funding (a)	National co-financing (b)	Total funding (c) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (d) = (a)/(c)	For information	
					EIB contributions	Other funding
P1- P4 Priorities	1,800,000	200,000	2,000,000	0.90	0	0
P5 Technical Assistance	200,000	0	200,000	1.00	0	0
TOTAL	**2,000,000**	**200,000**	**2,200,000**		**0**	**0**

Achievements in financial terms by the end of 2014:

In the year 2013 ENPI financial implementation of the programme did not start, i.e. the ENPI contribution pre-financing was received in 2014 by the Programme. The TA expenditure was pre-financed from national sources in 2013 by the TA beneficiary and was validated and reimbursed from the ENPI contribution in 2014.

1. ENPI pre-financing received from EC by 31 December 2014:

Priorities	IPA amounts (EUR)
P1-P4 Priorities	640.231,72
P5-Technical Assistance	200.000,00
Total	840.231,72

2. Payments to beneficiaries by 31 December 2014:

Priorities	ENPI amounts (EUR)
P1-P4 Priorities	468.127,40
P5-Technical Assistance	10.414,01
Total	**478.541,41**

2.1.3 Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

The indicative breakdown of the allocation of funds by categories is prescribed in the 4.7 of the Operational Programme. The breakdown of the committed funds by thematic codes is annexed to this Annual Report. The information is based on data obtained through the electronic monitoring system IMIS for the TA budget and on the SEE Monitoring Wizard tool for the ERDF allocated and spent by projects.

2.1.4 Assistance by target groups

The OP does not identify assistance by Target Groups.

2.1.5   Assistance repaid or reused

As far as the use made of assistance repaid or re-used following cancellation of assistance as referred to in Art. 57 (Durability of operations) of Reg. (EC) No 1083/2006 and Art. 98(2) (Financial corrections by Member States) of Reg. (EC) No 1083/2006, no reporting can be provided for the year 2014.
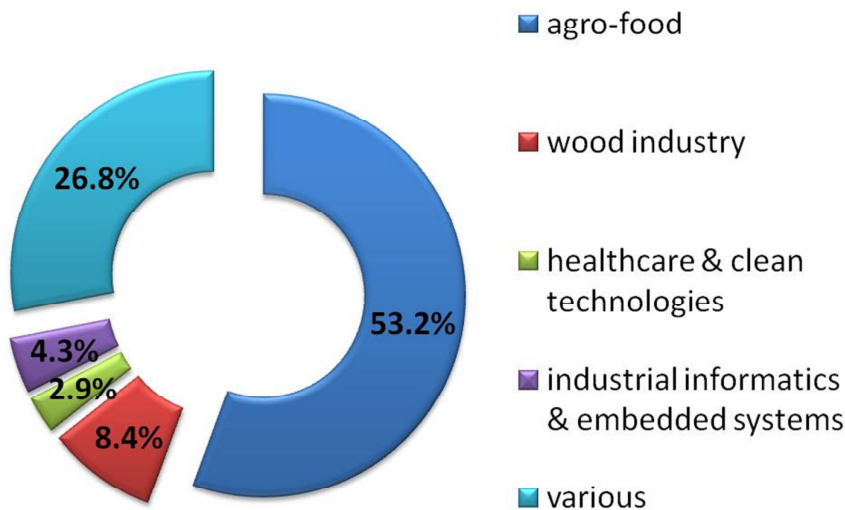
2.1.6   Qualitative analysis

The year 2014 marked the final period of implementation for SEE projects from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th call. The implementation period of the two latter ended in December 2014. In order to obtain sufficient data both on the quantitative and qualitative achievements of all projects (82 for the above calls in total) SEE JTS requested earlier submission of the Final Activity Reports and Monitoring Wizard tool (cf. original deadline for all projects is April-June 2015). By end of March 2015 ca. 86% of concerned projects managed to submit the requested reporting documents.

Combined data collected through project progress reports, MOWs and Final Activity Reports (FARs) allow for relevant analysis of **project achievements**.

In particular, high number of **trainings** were organised, specifically by PA1 projects (476), PA 2 projects held 353 training events, PA 4 – 317, and PA3 – 148. Not surprisingly, the highest number of participants in such capacity-building events is again reported by PA1 projects – 12,558, followed by PA2 – 8,793, PA4 – 6,896 and finally PA3 – 3,316. In general, the participants in such events can be public or economic operators (i.e. businesses).

While there were no **economic operators** (i.e. businesses) among SEE project partners, they were still involved as stakeholders. Most often they participated in trainings organised by the projects. The overwhelming majority of economic operators that were trained in SEE activities represent micro as well as small and medium size enterprises and were final beneficiaries of PA1 and PA2 projects. **More than 4,000 businesses underwent training thanks to SEE projects**. Roughly half of them came from the agro-food sector. These learnt how to use water-saving and fertilization precision techniques in agriculture; how to prevent soil pollution in their activities; how to design a business plan; where to get funding for research activities leading to innovation; and how to use ICT solutions to improve their business output.

Share of SMEs trained

- agro-food
- wood industry
- healthcare & clean technologies
- industrial informatics & embedded systems
- various

53.2%
26.8%
8.4%
4.3%
2.9%

The 'various' category shown in the pie chart covers a variety of economic sectors that usually depended on individual partner interest. What these cases had in common was the specific training topic such as innovation finance tools, intellectual property rights, responsible innovation, economic activities in nature-valuable areas, etc.

In the case of **public bodies** participating in SEE project-organised trainings, the following differentiation can be made according to their tasks: policy makers (responsible for policy design), policy executives (implement policies as instructed by policy makers, often created or co-owned by public authorities), and second-tier policy executives (can be created or co-owned by policy executives, e.g. nature park staff, road safety experts, cultural heritage managers). In all cases, these are public or public-equivalent institutions and eligible as partners in SEE programme. The pyramid below is a visual representation of the share of public and public-equivalent bodies trained by SEE projects. More than **7,500 staff members of such institutions increased their capacity and skills** by participating in SEE projects' training sessions. Of these, 44% represented policy executive, 34% - policy makers, and 22% - second-tier policy executives.

There are some patterns that project data reveals. For instance, the energy efficiency and renewable topic appeared to be of greatest interest to local and regional authorities. Policy makers also increased their knowledge of integrating migration and demographic data into the design of labour market policies (12%). Around 11.8% also participated in workshops on managing transnational river corridors in a sustainable way. Climate change was on the agenda for ca. 8.75% of policy makers. Apart from innovation support mechanisms and services, policy executives showed also interest in energy and resource efficiency and renewable energy sources (11.4%). Around 7% participated to trainings on cultural heritage valorisation. The second-tier of policy executives were most diverse in their training topics. A large share of them underwent trainings in environmental issues, e.g. management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas, climate change adaptation, natural risk management. Some 33% were involved in capacity building activities related to analogue/digital switchover in TV broadcasting. Another 13% underwent trainings in participatory management of cultural heritage and culture's place in the local economy.

Another more tangible aspect of SEE projects is the services they helped create or improve. It is again PA1 projects that reported the highest number of **services developed** – 129. These have reportedly

benefitted 105,548 inhabitants of southeast Europe. Most effective in this respect were environmental projects under PA2 which designed 75 services, the second lowest from all PAs, but with an outreach of more than 5 million people. It needs to be clarified that quite a few projects created temporary services for their main stakeholders that were made available only during the project implementation period – i.e. 24 to 36 months. Usually these are online platforms providing e-learning and networking opportunities as was the case with IPRforSEE (intellectual property rights services for innovators) and CLEAR (training culture managers on how to make heritage accessible to all), for instance. These are common for PA1 and PA4 projects. Other examples of temporary services also exist, e.g. Text-EAStile provided 51 SMEs from the textile sector with specific check-ups for environmental consideration in the production process. Some projects also considered their pilot actions to be "services", e.g. AsviLoc Plus involved SMEs in piloting customer relation management ICT and competence mapping tools, among others.

The collected data offer a perspective on what **types of services**/ products/tools were developed by SEE projects within the different priorities:

To facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship, for instance, SEE projects developed:
- ❖ online knowledge data repository on biomass utilization and relevant experts in Styria (AT), Western Macedonia (GR), South Tyrol (IT), Ljubljana (SI), Banská Bystrica (SK), Centru (RO),and Belgarde (RS) [FOROPA project];

- ❖ business support units for social enterprises set up in Venice (IT), Nova Gorica (SI), Graz (AT), Szombathely (HU), Sofia (BG), and Belgrade (RS [EASE&SEE project];

- ❖ a transnational network of 7 Technological Transfer Nodes /helpdesks/ to support agro-food sector enterprises, research bodies and public institutions in applying the TECH.FOOD Innovation Toolbox [TECH.FOOD];

- ❖ a transnational platform enabling the valorisation of R&I results and contact with investors leading to market realisation [INTERVALUE];

To support protection and improvement of environment SEE projects produced:
- ❖ geo-referenced biodiversity information system for the Carpathians to help with biodiversity monitoring [BioREGIO Carpathians];

- ❖ online climate data platform [ORIENTGATE];

- ❖ GIS application for disaster management intervention covering the territory of Pazardzhik (BG), Somogy (HU). Arad (RO), Trnava (SK), North Banat (RS), and Sarajevo (BiH) [SEERISK];

- ❖ a real-time web application for monitoring of marine and river vessels transporting dangerous cargo complete with data exchange system and repository of useful national legislation rules [SEE MARINER].

To improve the physical and virtual accessibility in the area SEE projects designed:
- ❖ a decision-support tool describing environmental impacts of traffic flow depending on chosen route and means of transport [Access2Mountain];

- ❖ 29 sustainable mobility packages related to tourism and an interactive map helping tourists use soft mobility options in the Danube area; mobility offers include, for instance, hovercraft links

between the municipalities along the Danube (from Belgrade eastwards), Cycle route along the Austrian-Hungarian border region (with EuroVelo 6 extension) [TRANSDANUBE];

❖ a data management centre set up in Vienna (AT) to manage transport modelling results for 59 border crossing sections in SEE. Data can be used in designing policies and implementing measures for border crossing point improvement [ACROSEE];

❖ More than 16,000 roads in 12 countries were scanned and analysed for accident risks and rated according to the safety risks. Colour-coded maps were generated showing risky road sections in Greece, Hungary Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, FYROM, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia [SENSOR].

To assist the development and functioning of sustainable growth areas SEE projects realized:
❖ new religious tourism products for Xanthi and Thessaloniki (GR), Burgas (BG), Székesfehérvár (HU), Miercurea Ciuc, Şumuleu Ciuc and Piatra Neamt (RO) (in total 13 products) , e.g. retreat programmes, new itineraries[RECULTIVATUR];

❖ a transnational database containing comparable demographic and migration data, labour market and economy basic data from Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary. Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia to help manage migratory processes in SEE [SEEMIG];

❖ a new European Cultural Route endorsed by the Council of Europe – Totalitarian Regimes of the XX century [ATRIUM];

❖ 5 Energy Investment Forums as permanent facilitators of energy efficiency in buildings and RES investments – Piraeus (GR), Zagreb (HR), Mantova and Perugia (IT), and Gabrovo (BG) [TRACE].

Although the above is far from being a comprehensive list of services developed by SEE projects, it gives a fairly good idea of the typical nature and character of services produced as a whole.

Transnational cooperation is characterised by 'soft measures' and much smaller budget compared to big infrastructure investments. Nevertheless, SEE projects managed in some cases to initiate investment processes in partner regions. The highest number of **investment proposals developed thanks to SEE** cooperation – 326, was reported under PA1. However, when it comes to describing the activity behind this indicator, it is more often PA2 (261 investment plans) and 3 (184 investment plans) that give sufficient details on the planned investment. The value of planned investment prepared with the help of SEE cooperation projects **surpasses EUR 28 billion**. Some examples of prepared investment plans are:
❖ MILD HOME supported the initiation of 5 investment projects in eco-green villages consisting of modular, do-it-yourself near-zero houses. These will be realized in Castelnuovo Rangone (IT), Sofia municipality (BG), village of Strem (AT), and Savski Venac (RS).

❖ In the case of PPP4Broadband, developing capacities for public-private partnerships for broadband roll-out led to making agreement with private providers to cover 2437 households in Municipality of Ajdovščina (SI) with 100 Mbps. The project helped the Greek region of Western Macedonia design a major broadband project to cover excluded suburbs of Patras (appr. 2150 households) for EUR 1.6 million.

❖ The partners of DaHar – medium port towns on the Danube – prepared action plans for functional improvement towards multimodal transport amounting to ca. EUR 160 million.

❖ SETA partners developed 11 pre-investment projects for improving port-hinterland rail connections in SEE area that are estimated at EUR 340 million;

❖ NOBLE Ideas managed to support 7 young innovators from the agro-food sector to sign financial agreements with investors in Bari (IT), Vratsa (BG), Gödöllő (HU), Timiş (RO), Maribor (SI), Kragujevac (RS) and Tirana (AL).

When it comes to **investments implemented with the support of SEE projects** (support in terms of know-how, coordination at transnational level, promotion towards investors, etc.) examples include:

❖ SEE_INNOVA project awarded 7 innovation vouchers each amounting to EUR 7,500 for the design of ambient assisted living services and products in Bucharest (RO), Trento (IT), Ancona (IT), Fejér (HU), Linz (AT) and Sofia (BG). Two of these design ideas are already in production in Italy and Romania.

❖ RAIL4SEE project made possible the restoration of the train connection between Sofia and Budapest via Vidin-Craiova-Arad in 2014.

❖ SEETAC efforts contributed to the successful FYROM application in 2012 to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to obtain a EUR 46,4 million loan for building a rail connection with Bulgaria.

The highest number of **successful policy interventions** resulting either in improvement of existing of the design of new policy frameworks is reported by PA2 projects – 166. PA4 projects seem to have faced the most difficulties in impacting policy change. Instances of successful policy intervention are rendered below.

❖ The Green Mountain common sustainable economic development and management model for mountainous areas was incorporated in the LEADER strategy of the Ennstal Ausseerland Local Action Group (Liezen, AT). The same model will be deployed in Smolyan (BG), which will be a pilot area in Bulgaria for the new Community-Led Local Development instrument (2014-2020).

❖ SEE digi.TV helped update existing or create new bylaws enabling analogue/digital switch-over and regulating digital dividend in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegrom, FYROM and Serbia.

❖ ClusterPoliSEE outputs were integrated into the regional smart specialisation strategy of Veneto region, as well as in the Hungarian S3 strategy on innovation in emerging industries (already endorsed by EC).

❖ MMWD provided data and expertise in migration policy scenario planning for Vienna (AT), Crete (GR), Bologna (IT) and Šumadije I Pomoravlja (RS);

❖ By promoting sustainable mobility in tourism along the Danube TRANSDANUBE inspired the Austrian region of Burgenland to include the topic in the new regional transport strategy. In Ruse region (BG) the know-how of the project is being used in elaborating the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, whose implementation will be realised through the new structural funds 2014-2020. The project produced an action plan for the Danube Delta, which is being integrated

into the Sustainable Development Strategy of South East Region of Romania planned as an Integrated Territorial Investment Instrument 2014-2020);

❖ The Forestry Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is now developing a funding programme "Forest for Water" concerning appropriate forestry management measures for a sustainable drinking water supply based on the results of CC-WARE project.

Considering that SEE programme supports 'soft cooperation measures' real investment in infrastructure and physical environment is rare. Nevertheless, PA3 projects reported the implementation of 27 **small scale infrastructure improvements** and PA2 describe 10 such instances. These look like this:

❖ 7 new River Information Service – based transport and logistics applications were installed in Dunaújváros (HU), Giurgiu and Galați (RO), Bratislava (SK), Silistra and Lom (BG) and Novi Sad (RS) to meet the demands of some 700 users [DaHar];

❖ Cycling infrastructure such as signpost installation, path marking, installing bike racks on regional trains were realised in Maramureş (RO), Miskolc (HU), Košice (SK) [Access2Mountain];

❖ 10 WLAN hotspots were installed in total in Vienna (AT), Baranya (HU), Vukovar (HR), Borski okrug (RS), Constanţa (RO) and Mehedinţi (RO) to enable free access to NEWADA Fairway Information Service portal, which gives real time information on Danube waterway conditions to vessel operators, skippers, water police, Schengen checkpoint authorities [NEWADA];

❖ Removing check dams on the Danube in Duna-Drava National Park in Slovakia and Hungary [DANUEB PARKS];

❖ Installation of biomass-fuelled boiler in Banyai Janos professional school in Odoreheiu Secuiesc (RO), small photo-voltaic panels in Goran Kovacic elementary school in Cepic (HR), a school in Banja Luka (BiH), and The House of Culture in the Municipality of Gradiška (BiH) [TERRE].

SEE projects indicators do not include the number of **jobs created** by the projects. However, projects are invited to report any such instances in their Final Activity Report. So far, several projects declared that their activities have led to the creation of new jobs (in total, 52):

❖ DaHar reports that project implementation, aimed at improving Danube medium port competitiveness, created 5 jobs, 3 of which will be maintained after project closure.

❖ EASE & SEE made it possible that 2 people were hired in the Venice Observatory of Welfare Services.

❖ NOBLE Ideas supported innovative business ideas of young entrepreneurs to get access to R&I services. One of the supported ideas – Vanilla Kitchen, healthy sweet shop (Vratsa, BG) turned into a successful start-up that employed 5 people;

❖ SILVER CITY created employment opportunities through two of its pilots. In Maribor (SI) 3 people above 50 years of age started their own social enterprises and 5 other persons got employed in existing business. In Trento (IT) 16 people (50+) found jobs thanks to the Unica Rete pilot;
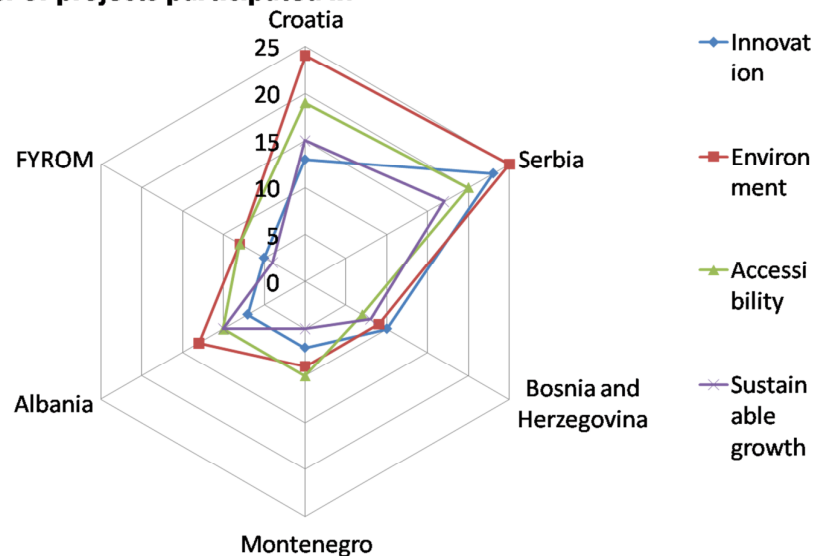
❖ STATUS employed 16 people thanks to the newly set up Urban Centres (project pilots) in Kavala (GR), Baia Mare (RO), Foggia (IT) and Bâlți (MD).

One important aspect of FARs is that they give an insight into **how partners receiving IPA and ENPI support benefited from SEE cooperation projects**. This is important because SEE programme has committed itself to improving the territorial integration in the programme area where nearly half of the partner countries are non-EU states.

IPA partners got involved in 115 out of the total of 122 projects financed by the SEE programme, which translates into 94% participation rate. In each of these 115 there are on average at least 2 IPA countries represented. In the first two calls institutions from IPA countries applied either for the 10% flexibility rule (i.e. a ERDF partner financing the participation of the IPA partner from their own budget) or for IPA grant (i.e. separate subsidy contract and reporting). Once the IPA funds were fully integrated in the programme implementation system, it became easier for institutions from IPA countries to join SEE partnerships. It needs to be clarified that project partners from Croatia were financed only from IPA funds, as following their EU accession, at that stage of the programme implementation no additional ERDF funds were allocated to Croatian project partners.

From the 6 IPA countries the highest participation rate is observed for Serbia, which is represented in 85 SEE projects. Institutions from Croatian cooperated in 71 projects, from Albania – in 40, from Bosnia and Herzegovina – in 34, from Montenegro – in 31, and from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – in 25. As a whole, partners from IPA countries exhibited greatest interest in PA2 projects focusing on environment protection, natural risk prevention, and energy and resource efficiency issues. The following graph illustrates the concentration of partners from a given country in each of the four thematic priorities of the SEE programme:

Institutions from 2 ENPI countries could participate in SEE projects – Republic of Moldova and part of Ukraine. Moldovan partners cooperated in 17 projects, whereas their Ukrainian counterparts cooperated in 26 projects. Only Moldovan partners had access to ENPI funds and that only at a very late stage of programme implementation. So in the majority of cases partners from these two countries used the 10% flexibility rule. Thematically speaking, Ukrainian beneficiaries were mostly engaged in transport-related projects, whereas Moldovan beneficiaries had an almost equal interest in each

priority axis with slight preference for environmental and sustainable growth projects. The concentration of partners per country and per topic is shown below:

Number of projects participated in
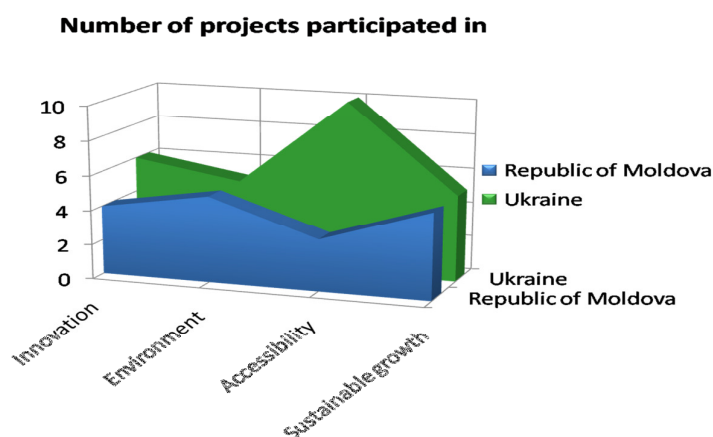
The main benefits for both IPA and ENPI partners was the **capacity building effect** of transnational cooperation, which was most often strengthened through tailored trainings, study visits and peer reviews. But also other joint activities contributed to this effect, e.g. using new technologies, testing new practices, coordinating policies and investments. Oftentimes various measures are combined for an increased effectiveness. For instance, EU.WATER organised specific capacity-building seminars for the staff of its partners from Pazin (HR), Belgrade (RS), Odessa (UA) and Laloveni (MD) on water management and environmental monitoring in agriculture. Afterwards local workshops for farmers and agronomists were held in each of these countries with more than 200 people attending in total. The project produced water vulnerability GIS maps that were first of their kind for Croatia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

VIBE project sought to attract private investment for innovation in southeast European companies with special focus on the Western Balkans. Alongside EU organisations partners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia were directly involved in this transnational initiative. One activity served particularly the need for fundraising and that was the Venture Forum. Four such events were organised by the project to match entrepreneurs and investors and two of them took place outside the EU – in Tirana (AL) and Jahorina (BiH). In total, around 400 enterprises from the region took part in the four pitching events. SMEs from the IPA countries engaged in a series of online coaching programmes for innovation readiness and webinars with investors.

SENSOR project enabled the access to technologies for inspecting roads for safety risk sections. Colour-coded safety risks maps were developed for road sections in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, and Serbia. The project welcomed a Moldovan partner after the specific ENPI call. This partner also had the opportunity to use the mapping tools of the project.

NELI and its follow-up HINT are good examples of how transnational cooperation supported **harmonisation** of education **standards** and acknowledgement of qualifications across SEE Danube countries in the fields of logistics and navigation. The partners from Croatia, Serbia and Ukraine translated the common online training tool and it is now for permanent use in their regions. In this way trained specialists have equal skills as their peers from EU countries like Austria or Romania, for instance. In addition, education and training institutions from Croatia, Serbia and Ukraine are now part of a joint Danube Knowledge Networking comprising 134 organisations. In their final activity report the consortium emphasises the motivation and contribution to project outputs that these partners brought.

In HINT non-EU partners inputted ideas for the development of joint innovative training tools, e.g. plans for training vessel, interactive navigation simulator.

EVAL-INNO project carried out pilot evaluations of RTDI programmes in Montenegro and Serbia and gave recommendations for improvement. These were "The programme for co-financing of innovation projects in 2011" run by the Ministry of Education and Science in Serbia and "Voucher scheme for innovative SMEs" of the Montenegrin Directorate for the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. In addition, Mihailo Pupin Institute in Serbia took part in a transnational RTDI institution benchmarking exercise. Specific capacity building events were organised in Belgrade and Niš (RS) and Podgorica (ME). These events involved also RTDI stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, and even Kosovo. Similar trainings aimed at creating evaluation capacities for better RTDI delivery were organised also in several EU countries. In this relation, the events in Romania engaged also participants from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Another aspect was the **coordination of major investment planning and implementation** exemplified by SEETAC. The project sought to integrate Western Balkan and EU transport networks. Collaboration between transport institutions on highest political level was at once a challenge and the highest achievement of this project. For many of the non-EU partners sharing transport data was considered an issue of national security for a long period of time. Therefore, the fact that at the end of SEETAC transport decision-makers from EU and non-EU states created a common transport investment database is a great success. In addition, shared data allowed for building various traffic scenarios until 2030 for the SEE region. These scenarios are now included in a SEE Spatial Planning Operative Strategy that also defines an agreed list of priority interventions, whose implementation can enhance the transport conditions in the area. The joint investment plan amounts to EU 27.6 billion, 83% of which are earmarked for rail projects with the rest allocated to road connectivity. SEETAC activities aimed at integrating non-EU countries in the EU TEN-T network have been recognised by DG MOVE. IPA countries that took part in SEETAC were Albania, FYROM, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia, while Bosnia and Herzegovina was involved as an observer.

For the EU candidate countries cooperation was also a possibility to **harmonise regulatory framework with EU directives** as was demonstrated by SEE TV-Web project and its follow-up – SEE.Digi TV. The aim of this transnational network was to harmonize the approach for executing Analogue to Digital (A/D) Switchover and lay the foundation for future coordination of the digital dividend in the region. Partners including institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia, exchanged practices on technical requirements for the switchover process, legal framework adjustments, and ways to utilise the digital dividend. It was the IPA partners that benefitted the most as project implementation ran simultaneously as the switchover process in their countries. Transnational cooperation helped speed up the process and delivery it enriched know-how. SEE TV-WEB and SEE.Digi TV helped introduced new or update existing regulatory framework (e.g. laws/bylaws) in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and FYROM. In addition, the projects facilitated new or updated A/D switchover strategies for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Partners from Vukovar (HR), Belgrade (RS), Crimislia (MD), Chisinau (MD) and Odessa (UA) participated in the formulation of an International Danube Ship Waste Convention in the framework of COWANDA project. While the predecessor project WANDA helped them develop national ship waste management plans, the follow-up went a step further in harmonising national regulations as a precondition for signing the international waste convention. Additional support was provided to the Republic of Moldova in this regard as their national law did not address ship waste management at all. Together with the rest of the consortium members IPA and ENPI partners contributed to the planning of a network of waste collection facilities along the Danube and designing of a polluter-pays mechanism using electronic vignettes. The Electronic Vignette System was pilot-tested, among others, in Croatia. In

the Republic of Moldova specific training events on ship waste treatment and prevention for skippers were realised with the support of COWANDA. In addition, the concept of dealing safely with ship-created waste was promoted at a series of regional events.

SEE projects became excellent platforms for **integrating IPA and ENPI partners in wider European networks**. For instance, TRANSDANUBE project promoted sustainable mobility in the Danube region with special focus on tourism. Thanks to their involvement in the project Belgrade, Veliko Gradište, Golubac, Majdanpek, Kladovo, Negotin, Bor, Zaječar, Sokobanja, Boljevac, Knjaževac, and Braničevo (RS) are now part of the interactive tourist map of the project promoting soft mobility options in the area. In the same are Moldovan locations of Cahul, Cantemir and Taraclia are also promoted through the project outputs. The project findings have been integrated in the Destination Marketing Operational plan drafted for Danube Serbia region as well as in the Draft of the Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2016-2025.

BioREGIO Carpathians appreciated the cooperation with the partner from Bor (RS) as they represented the link for transferring experience on nature conservation and ecological connectivity between the Carpathians and the Dinaric Arc in the Balkans. In this respect there are future cooperation plans under discussion. Thanks to the project the Serbian partner developed studies on integrated management in the Djerdap area focusing on ecosystem services and tourism. They were supported in their official application to the join RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, as well as with a study of threats to wetlands in the Djerdap National Park. The consortium was joined also by a Ukrainian partner from the Rakhiv region who started harmonizing environment management practices with EU counterparts, which will benefit the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve at the border with Romania. Joint monitoring of species took place together with the partner from Maramureş (RO) and an agreement for continuation of this activity in the future was reached.

There are SEE projects whose thematic focus was quite specific considering the history of the region. SEE projects tried to turn seemingly disadvantageous assets into development opportunities. For instance, F.A.T.E. project focused on the economic benefits from converting military brownfields into profitable and environmentally safe areas such as business incubators or business support centres. Following a common methodology partners designed 8 reconversion plans for SEE military brownfields among which the Kosta Nadj and Peter Drapsin camps in Subotica (RS) and Hadzici military site in Sarajevo (BiH). In Bosnia and Herzegovina the presentation to relevant institutions of solutions in other partner countries concerning conversion of military sites resulted in the starting a constructive discussion on the subject. Conversion of non-perspective military objects in Sarajevo macro region, other than the one mentioned above, is now being considered. Another example of turning historic legacy to the benefit of partners and visitors of the region comes from ATRIUM. The project managed to establish a European Cultural Route dedicated to Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of XX century and to get the endorsement of the Council of Europe. Locations and monuments from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia are also part of this route. Partners from these countries are now also part of the ATRIUM association, which manages the cultural route and promotes tourist opportunities related to it. These are the town of Labin (HR), Tirana (AL), and Doboj (BiH).

According to the collected data by the end of 2014 obtained from 93% of all SEE projects, the wide variety and valuable achievements of the projects described above, in the context of the **programme result indicators**, reached 67.95% of the targets.

The programme is close to **achieving the initial targets** for *tackling crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements – 93%, developing enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship – 89%*, as well as for *improving the prevention of environmental risks –*

89%, while in case of *promotion of energy and resource efficiency* the target has been even exceeded – and in this greatly so – in terms of number of contributions to programme objectives, reaching 179%.

The same data show that the initial targets for improving the accessibility in SEE region were instead overly optimistic: only 19% of the goal to *improve the framework conditions for multimodal platforms* has been fulfilled; *developing strategies to tackle the "digital divide"* reached 34% and *coordination in planning and operating primary & secondary transport networks* managed to achieve 67% fulfilment. Below the 50% completion threshold are also the targets for *developing technology & innovation networks in specific fields* (39%), and *integrated water management and flood risk prevention* (48%).

The biggest **share of ERDF support invested for contributions** to *improving the coordination in promoting, planning, and operation for primary & secondary transportation networks* – EUR 19.5 million. Second and third come the thematic areas with some of the greatest number of contributions registered – *developing the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship* – EUR 19.4 million, and *promoting energy and resource efficiency* – EUR 17.5 million. Most cost-efficient were the contributions made to *promoting cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas*, which reached almost 90% of their goal with EUR 11.4 million of ERDF support. In comparison, the lowest contribution performance was achieved with EUR 6.2 million for strategies tackling the "*digital divide*".

It is clear that even when all projects manage to report their contributions to programme objectives, the initial targets in some cases will not be reached. Whilst *a reason for that is that **initial targets*** were overoptimistic, it must be highlighted that the **understanding of "programme result indicator" evolved** during implementation and that a new tool for monitoring the contribution of projects on the programme targets was introduced: the SEE Monitoring Wizard.

SEE Monitoring Wizard (SEE MOW) was first introduced in 2013. It helped improve the monitoring of programme and projects by allowing the detection of the **contribution to programme operational objectives and codes for the priority theme dimension** [Council Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006]. The SEE AIR 2013 reported contributions of 1st call projects closed by that time.

Initially programme developers and programme monitoring bodies had the understanding that 1 approved project could yield on average 3 contributions. Contributions were supposed to be definable and recordable (quantitative), as well as evaluable (qualitative). However, no further clarification on the essence of the contribution was provided. In the course of programme implementation SEE management bodies (MC, MA, JTS) realised that the original indicator system did not allow for obtaining sufficient qualitative information about contributions, i.e. what did they look like. Moreover, the initial definition of a contribution did not provide a link between programme and project indicators. What was missing was qualitative data that could enable programme management bodies to understand how project achievements shaped the contributions to programme objectives. Thus in 2012 an overhaul of the programme monitoring systems was procured and as a result additional monitoring tools were introduced, i.e. SEE MOW and the FAR. It was then that the definition of contribution evolved into a positive change or an improvement of a situation in the field which a given project is addressing (i.e. area of intervention = programme operational objectives). When reporting on contributions projects have to also relate to a thematic code. The evolution of the result indicator was a milestone in shifting the focus from monitoring financial flows to monitoring changes effected by projects in the area. So in itself it was a good development anticipating the result-oriented approach of the new programming period. However, the revision of the monitoring system was very time consuming and its timing - mid-programme, had its consequences. By the time it was applied in practice 1st call projects were almost all finalised (so it was applied retroactively and on voluntary basis) and most of the rest of the projects were quite advanced in their implementation. So the new SEE MOW tool could not be used on par progress reports. It was decided to use it twice – once as mid-term project reporting and the second

time - with project closure. The data obtained through both SEE MOWs and FARs proved essential for understanding the effect SEE programme is having on the ground (ref. annual implementation reports 2013 and 2014). While the focus on qualitative data is much appreciated, the initial quantitative targets for the contribution indicator remained unchanged. Thus the disproportions between the targets and reported values, purely quantitatively, appear obvious.

In addition to the reason above, when the programme was being designed **important aspects of the nature of territorial cooperation** were **not considered enough –** which results the problem of overestimation of certain targets.

SEE experience has shown that cooperation projects (i.e. soft measures) dealing with environmental protection as well as energy efficiency and renewable sources, for example, are much easier to implement, since such projects not necessarily require big investments and the focus on networking and learning from each other suits their goals very well. In comparison to this, transport-related projects normally would require serious investments in infrastructure to approach the targets, which, due to the nature of the transnational cooperation programmes, cannot be financed. This does not mean that transport projects are not effective in the framework of transnational cooperation, rather as a matter of fact, even the implementation of soft measures in the field of accessibility, requires a much larger efforts in terms of bodies involved, changes to be done, resources and time to be invested.

In the process of the implementation there were different measures applied by the programme management in order to fill the gap between the programme targets and the project achievements, in addition to the MOW.

For example, important decisions were taken along the programme implementation to get closer to the original targets, such as tailoring the calls for proposals to that purpose: the second call was restricted to certain Areas of Interventions, following a deep gap analysis that showed some discrepancies between the programme and the thematic fields covered by the projects approved. For the same reason, the programme decided for a third strategic call, following a top down approach, pushing projects generation towards such strategic thematic fields which were not sufficiently addressed before by the awarded projects.

Through these and similar measures, the SEE Programme managed to improve its performance substantially.

A number of other additional reasons affected the reaching of certain programme targets, such as, for example, the difficulty of directly involving businesses in projects (very relevant for the AoI *Develop technology & innovation networks in specific fields)*: the benefit businesses could perceive was mainly restricted to trainings and transnational business meetings. The challenges of applying state aid rules in territorial cooperation, let alone a programme with such diverse regulatory backgrounds as SEE (EU, EU-candidate, EU-potential candidate countries) proved difficult to overcome.

Of course, the fact that a lower number of projects (122) were approved, in comparison to the 130 originally foreseen – and that projects reported an average of 2.5 contributions to the programme in comparison to the 3 foreseen – has also determine a gap between the total actual and target values.

The SEE programme initiated in 2012 a **capitalisation process** aiming at encouraging thematically-close projects to cooperate, in which all partners – from ERDF, IPA and ENPI countries – had equal opportunities to join.

In the first phase of capitalisation, in October 2012 SEE projects working in the field of innovation (strengthening RTDI, enhancing SME competitiveness) gathered in Timisoara (RO) to exchange on topic-related issues. Soon after in March 2013 in Budapest (HU), another seminar was organised for exchange among projects working on environmental topics (climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management, resource efficiency, environment protection). Feedback from these events showed that SEE projects have an interest in such synergy-building activities. Thus a few months later in

2013 the formalised concept for a SEE capitalisation initiative emerged taking into consideration the programme and project implementation stage, available human and financial resources. SEE JTS explored different existing capitalisation approaches and experiences to select the most suitable practices. SEE Capitalisation strategy was formally launched in June 2013 at the SEE Annual event held in Bucharest (RO). The event facilitated the thematic clustering of projects in 14 poles, which committed to a schedule of joint activities for a year and a half:

Later on the Innovation Governance and Policy 'absorbed' the Knowledge Transfer to SMEs cluster, whereas one thematic pole - Hazard Management and Risk Prevention, disintegrated. This was due to the fact that participation to the capitalisation initiative was voluntary and no additional funding was available for synergy-building activities.

SEE capitalisation was predominantly bottom-up. Each thematic pole drew up with its own working plan (roadmap) and list of desired outcomes. The plan was based on an indicative, but not exhaustive, list of possible synergy-building activities, provided by the SEE JTS. All roadmaps had to be endorsed by SEE JTS, as well. Programme staff participated in most of the capitalisation events organised within the poles in order to provide guidance, where needed, and follow the progress of clusters.

The SEE capitalisation objectives, activities and achievements can be visualised in the following manner:
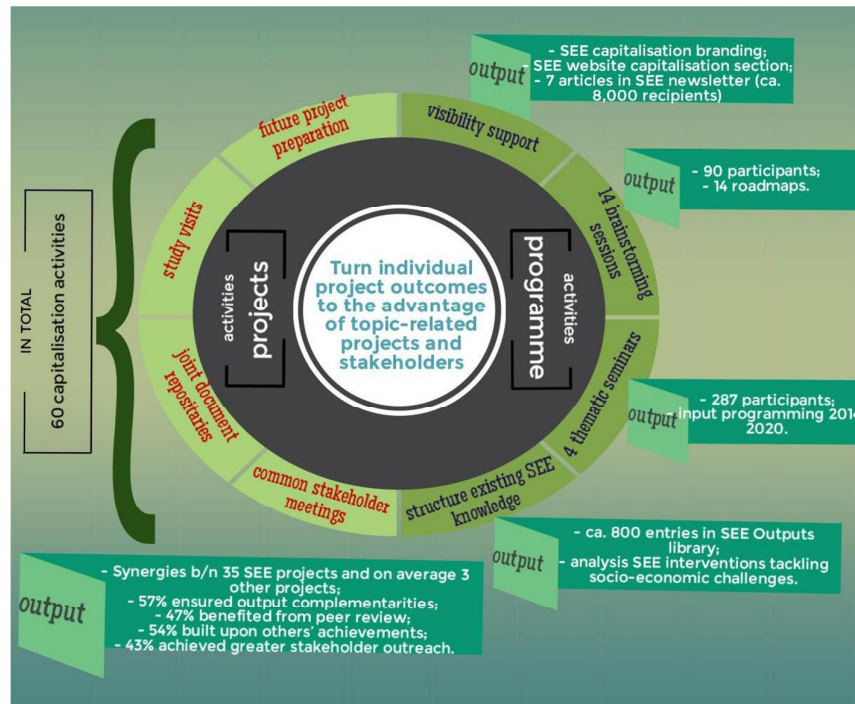
One of the most significant achievements of SEE capitalisation is the input projects gave for the design of the three new programmes succeeding SEE. Thanks to the thematic seminars projects collected lessons learnt on project development and implementation, stakeholder engagement, project/ programme relations. The Adriatic-Ionian and Danube transnational programmes (2014-2020) referenced this contribution in their operational programme texts.

Interesting outcomes of SEE capitalisation have been reported within several of the thematic poles. CO-WANDA (waste management in inland transport) developed an online waste collection booking services for ship operators on the Danube. This application was adapted by DaHar (Danube Harbor development) to meet the needs of sea ship operators coming in the Danube delta from the Black Sea. The newly adopted service was tested in the ports of Tulcea and Galaţi in Romania. This transfer happened thanks to cross-fertilisation between the Greener Transport Systems and Multimodal Accessibility to Primary Networks poles. Within the pole of Employment and Demographic Change SEEMIG (managing migration in transnational context) put emphasis on data collection and harmonisation, while MMWD (migration-related strategic policy planning) focused on policy tools for managing migration in the future. The outputs of both projects turned out to be complementary. In particular, migration data collected by SEEMIG was used in benchmarking the data feeding MMWD's policy planning. SEEMIG took on board recommendations on what sets of data are needed for policy making. The Climate Change Adaptation thematic pole created synergies between ORIENTGATE (integrating climate change into policy and territorial planning) and SEERISK projects (joint disaster management in Danube macro region). As a result disaster risk reduction was added to ORIENTGATE's climate change adaptation decision-making support tools.

The SEE JTS assessed the effectiveness of the capitalisation initiative at the end of 2014. More details can be found in *section 2.7.5 of the report*.

All materials related to the capitalisation process can be found here: http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/achievements/capitalisation_strategy/.

2.2 Information about compliance with EU law

No problems related to the compliance with the EU law occurred in 2014.

Legislative changes in 2014

– **EU legislation**

European Territorial Cooperation

- *Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 was* not amended in 2014.

- *Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) 1783/1999* was not amended in 2014.

- *Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund* was not amended in 2014.

Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)

- *Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)* was not amended in 2014.

- *Commission Regulation No 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance* was not amended in 2014.

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

- *Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument was not amended in 2014.*

- *Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/2007 of 9 August 2007 laying down implementing rules for cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument was amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1343/2014 of 17 December 2014: additional Article (Art. 26a) was inserted concerning the financial corrections by the Joint Managing Authority, the deadline for submitting the final report on implementation of the joint operational programme was modified in Art. 32., and closure phase (Art. 43.)* was amended because of the extended implementation phase for projects. These amendments don't have effect on the implementation of the SEE programme.

– **Hungarian legislation**

- *In 2014 certain institutional changes occurred affecting the management of the SEE programme based on the followings: By the Government Decree 475/2013. (XII. 17.)* concerning to the certain issues related to the elimination of the National Development Agency, the National Development Agency ceased its operation with legal succession by 31st December 2013. The Managing Authority of International Cooperation Programmes within the National Development Agency, acted among others as the Managing Authority (hereinafter: MA) of the SEE programme, was transferred to the Prime Minister's Office.

- *According to the Government Decree 161/2014 (VI. 30.) and the Government Decision 1362/2014 (VI. 30.),* the tasks of the VATI Hungarian Regional Development and Town Planning Nonprofit Limited Liability Company related to cooperation programmes, i.e. hosting the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Contact Point, operating the control system and performing horizontal tasks, were taken over by the Széchenyi Programme Office Consulting and Service Nonprofit Limited Liability Company (hereinafter: SZPO), with unchanged personnel, duties, functions and procedures as of 1st July 2014. (SZPO is a 100% state-owned company, operating under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office.)

  - Because of the above institutional changes the following government decrees were amended *Government Decree No 49/2007. (III. 26.) on the institutions involved in the implementation of certain programmes related to European territorial cooperation funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the Instrument for Pre-Accession, and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument*

  - *Government Decree 160/2009. (VIII. 3.) on the implementation of certain programmes related to European territorial cooperation funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession*

- *210/2010. (VI. 30.) Government Decision on the Directorate General for Audit of European Funds* was on one hand amended by *Government Decree 214/2014 (VIII. 27.)* because of the widening of the scope of control, related to the 2014-2020 programming period, and on the other hand minor amendments have been made through the *Government Decree 221/2014 (IX. 4.) on the amendment of certain governmental changes related to the transformation of governmental structure,* but these amendments had no effect on SEE programme.

- *Ministerial Decree of the Minister for National Development No 14/2012 (III. 6.) on the rules of use of State Aid related to the European territorial cooperation in the 2007-2013 programming period* was not amended in 2014.

2.3   Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

The yearly n+2/n+3 target was 34,323,805.00 EUR in 2014. In order to reduce de-commitment risk, an interim reporting period and derogation to the project partners was introduced in connection to the deadline of declaration on validation of expenditure submission. Overall the total amount of the certified eligible expenditure included in Applications for Payment submitted to the EC by the end of 2014 was 176,033,556.47 EUR corresponding to 148,601,387.97 EUR of ERDF contribution Together with the total advance payment received from the Commission (18,837,448.00 EUR) it is 167,438,835.97 EUR. This is 826,587.97 EUR more than the n+2 target of the Programme for 2014

According to the conclusion of the system audit of 2013: **The system works well, only minor improvements needed**.

The subject of the audit was a system audit of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme in accordance with Art. 62 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 with special regard to adequate information and strategy to provide guidance to beneficiaries (MA KR3), to adequate management verifications (MA KR4), and satisfactory arrangements for keeping an account of amounts recoverable and for recovery of undue payments (CA KR4). The objective of the audit was to determine whether the changes and operation of the management and control system of the Programme under audit were in line with the relevant legislation and internal regulations and whether the elements and procedures of the management and control system ensured the appropriate utilization of the funds in accordance with the objectives of the Operational Programme (hereinafter OP). And finally, to determine whether the action plans prepared on the grounds of the findings and recommendations of the system audit of 2012 carried out by the External Auditor have been adequately and completely fulfilled. The reference period of the system audit of 2013 was 1st January – 31st December 2013.

Based on the classification of the relevant key requirements regarding the performance of the MA, JTS, CA and the FLC Bodies, the management and control system of the SEE Programme can be classified into the first category: works well, only minor improvements are needed.

2.4   Changes in the context of the Operational Programme implementation

2.4.1   Amendment of the Operational Programme

The 4th Amendment of the Operational Programme was necessary in relation to:

-    the de-commitment to the 2013 annual budget of the SEE Programme implicating the revision of the financial plan of the Programme;
-    the institutional changes affecting the Managing Authority and the JTS in 2014 (described in section 2.2 of this report)

The 4th Amendment was submitted to the European Commission on 02 November 2014.

2.5   Substantial modification under Article 57 of the Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

Not applicable for the year 2014.

2.6   Complementarities with other instruments

(Annex II presents in detail the complementarities with other programmes / donors etc.)

SEE programme is financed through ERDF, IPA and ENPI funding instruments. On project level, activities are also financed solely from the above mentioned sources. Other existing financial instruments as described in Article 9 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 are sometimes used by individual project partners to support follow-ups on SEE projects. More often SEE projects establish synergies with peer initiatives funded through other ETC programmes or EC-managed instruments like the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme or LIFE. Usually these complementarities are manifested through SEE projects exchanging practices with other consortia, creating spin-offs or new projects and partnerships. SEE JTS collects information on such complementarities via project progress reports as well as Final Activity Reports.

The SEE Annual Implementation Report 2013 provided an extensive list of synergy examples. Here are the latest cases reported by SEE projects by the end of 2014:

EVAL-INNO (Fostering evaluation competences in research, technology and innovation) stems from the INNO-Appraisal initiative made possible by the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). While implementing EVAL-INNO activities partners created synergies with WBCInno (TEMPUS), which focused on strengthening structures and services for knowledge transfer, research and innovation. In

addition, collaboration was established with WBC-INCO.Net (EU 7th Framework Programme), which promotes coordination of research policies with the Western Balkan countries.

ClusterPoliSEE is one of the six strategic projects of SEE. And while its aim was to strengthen regional actors' capacity for smart specialization and cluster policies, its partnership learned a lot from the exchange with the more mature cluster approach of CluStrat (Central Europe 2007-2013). The two projects organised a joint OPEN DAYS workshop in Brussels in 2014. In addition, the project Austrian partners ensured spill-over effects from their INTERREG IVC project ClusteriX (cross-cluster collaboration focus). CluterPoliSEE helped the Bulgarian Furniture Cluster to liaise with partners from Austria and Germany and initiate a project on used furniture recycling. The two other partners – the Union of Slovak Clusters and the Pannon Business Association Network (HU) went on with their cooperation thanks to V4Clusters project supported by the Visegrad Fund.

Another SEE strategic project – ORIENTGATE (climate change adaptation and mitigation) – engaged with a strategic project supported through ENPI CBC Med programme – Mare Nostrum. They exchanged know-how on integrated coastal zone management.

CAPINFOOD sought to create enabling environment for innovation in the SEE area food sector. Transnational exchange of experience was not confined to the CAPINFOOD consortium alone. Communication channels were established with FoodManufuture, SmartAgriFood and FInish projects all supported through the EU 7th Framework Programme.

SEE_INNOVA consortium promoted social innovation and especially ambient intelligence technologies in service of the elderly. The project leader, Marche Region, used the experience of the innovation voucher pilots to launch a brand new initiative – INNOVouchers, which has received funding from the Horizon 2020 programme. In addition, the lead partner also ensured cross-fertilisation of knowledge thanks to its experience in projects supported by MED and INTERREG IVC.

EVLIA focused on good management of intellectual assets in companies. Its methodology was shared and later taken over by FIDIAS (Alpine Space) and FIREMED (MED programme).

Apart from collaborating with the EMPIRIC project (Central Europe 2007-2013), SEE Mariner, which tackles transportation of dangerous goods, also capitalised on the Elina (LIFE) project dealing with integrated green life cycle management of waste oils and petroleum residues.

Green Mountain partners developed a common model for sustainable economic development in green mountain areas. Their work was complemented by exchanges with PESTO (Life Long Learning Programme) – a project connecting in a network EU projects working on sustainable tourism. Green Mountain also made use of the European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU project results (E.N.T.E.R.).

Through the common topic of managing river systems Danube Floodrisk exchanged experience with the INTERREG IVC-funded ERCIP project.

WATERMODE promoted multimodal transport by using sea and inland waterways. The consortium work was enriched through synergies with the INWAPO (Central Europe 2007-2013) project focusing on central European inland waterways.

SEE MARINER created a web platform for real-time traffic info on marine and river ships transporting dangerous goods in SEE area. With their work they complemented existing initiatives like SafeSeaNet and CleanSeaNet implemented by the European Maritime Safety Agency. At the same time the project exchanged know-how with the MED-financed OPTIMIZEMED capitalisation project.

SEE-ITS focused on intelligent transport systems. Partners found useful insights in cooperative transport systems (road safety, energy efficiency, road congestion management) thanks to COMPASS4D project (EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme). They learned about aspects of intermodal rail services through links with the COSMOS project (Marco Polo Programme). Contacts were established

also with ERTICO, i.e. a collaborative platform for deployment of intelligent transport systems and services.

Re-Seeties adopted an integrated approach to resource efficient urban communities by combining energy and waste issues. On the topic of renewable energy project partners found common ground with the 'Alpine Space in Movement' project (Alpine Space 2007-2013) and LEGEND (Adriatic IPA 2007-2013). On the subject of waste management the project exchanged ideas with the ZEROWASTE consortium (MED programme 2007-2013).

ADB Multiplatform in seeking to improve multimodal transport connections in the Adriatic-Danube area used the studies on modelling air pollution produced by the CAFÉ-CBA project (LIFE).

SETA partnership, addressing bottlenecks in the transport network in southeast Europe, managed to establish synergies with the ADRIA-A project (Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013) for the implementation of a train pilot action in Monfalcone. In addition, links with the Transitects partnership (Alpine 2007-2013) were created.

RAIL4SEE is a strategic project aimed at improving rail and intermodal transport through rail hubs. Through the project's lead partner the consortium tapped also in the knowledge of RAILHUC project (Central Europe 2007-2013) that focused on rail connections in central Europe. The two projects organised together their final conferences in one single event. RAIL4SEE also engaged with the NODES project (EU 7th Framework Programme) on the topic of mobility governance.

 The NELI consortium, which worked to harmonise the quality of training personnel for the Danube navigation sector, found it useful to adapt different aspects of several other EU funded projects. For instance, partners examined the electronic service record book developed by PLATINA II (7th Framework Programme). In addition, they got in contact with the LNG Masterplan for Rhein-Main-Danube initiative (Trans-European Transport Network) to learn about their concept of inland transportation of liquefied natural gas.

The achievements of DaHar project (Danube Inland Harbour development) have informed the implementation of the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border project 'Clean Access in Calarasi-Silistra cross-border area' in the field of joint transport policies and systems.

Sustainable transport in tourism along the Danube River was the main focus of TRANSDANUBE project. Take-up of some of the outcomes was ensured through a new project financed by the German State of Baden-Württemberg called 'Sustainable Mobility in the Danube area'.

ACCESS2MOUNTAIN addressed with sustainable mobility in sensitive tourist areas in the Alps and Carpathian mountains. Inputs from the AlpInfoNet (Alpine Space 2007-2014), which focused on sustainable mobility information services, provided added value to the SEE project.

Two SEE projects dealing with demographic issues – MMWD and SEEMIG, maintained close ties with the Central Europe project Re-Turn (focus on returning migrants). MMWD also used data collected from the Med-Migration I and II initiatives funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument. In addition, outputs of several EU research projects dealing with migration data were taken up, i.e. PROMINSTAT and MIMOSA (EU 6th Framework Programme) and GEMMA (EU 7th Framework Programme).

CLEAR project worked to make cultural values and assets accessible to all users even those with hearing, speaking or mobility impairment. During the project implementation partners used WaaT, web accessibility assessment tool, created by the 7th Framework project ACCESSIBLE.

Sy_CULTour aimed to reveal the tourist potential of rural areas by promoting also intangible cultural values. Partners found it useful to engage with local LEADER action groups financed through European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

BUILD SEE partners exchanged know-how on promoting green buildings in urban environment. Their approach was appreciated by the Re-New Town project (Central Europe 2007-2013), which focused on making post-socialist cities more attractive.

The RECULTIVATUR consortium set out to integrate religious cultural values in the economic development model of urban centres and surrounding rural areas. Synergies were created with the CROSSCULTOUR project (Central Europe 2007-2013) on the topic of cross-marketing strategies for culture and tourism. A spin-off of RECULTIVATUR is an IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey 2007-2013 project called 'Tell Us About Thracians'.

2.7   Monitoring and evaluation

2.7.1   Monitoring Committee activities

In the course of 2014 SEE programme convened two Monitoring Committee meetings. The thirteenth MC meeting took place on 9th April in Tirana, Albania. The SEE JTS and MC members discussed the state of play of programme implementation in financial (ERDF and IPA) as well as content terms.

The finance-related discussions focused on the pending n+3 de-commitment of the programme and possible ways to deal with the issue both on programme and project level. Participating countries deliberated on using unspent TA budget (core and national allocations) to partly cover the de-commitment risk. The final decision was postponed.

Greece requested a decision on reallocating funds from the core TA project to the Greek national TA project for the preparation of the Balkan-Mediterranean programme. No decision was made in this regard as more details on the spending plans were requested from the MC.

The SEE JTS presented a strategy for covering the last 5% of ERDF, which are normally reimbursed sometime after a programme's closure. Different options for ensuring final payments to projects through pre-financing by participating countries were considered. The decision on this issue was postponed till a later meeting.

On the content side, member countries approved the SEE JTS work plan for 2014 together with the communication plan. However, they expressed the need for more visibility of project results in the individual countries as well as at EU level.

The last Tirana session enabled the exchange of approaches for the preparation of the three new programmes, i.e. ADRION, Balkan-Mediterranean, and Danube.

The fourteenth MC meeting was convened on 25th September in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was held back to back with SEE Annual event. The MC agenda featured discussion points covering the SEE JTS human resources capacities needed for programme closure, coordination of capacity transfer to the new Danube programme, programme audits, 2013 de-commitment and 2014 financial situation, as well as ensuring liquidity beyond 95% of SEE ERDF budget. As a final point for discussion a request from the EC for an additional ENPI project for the Republic of Moldova was tabled.

The meeting was attended by the Hungarian MA of the new Danube programme. It was explained that most of the SEE JTS staff would probably consider joining the Danube JS. At this background, the SEE MC wanted to make sure that SEE JTS would have enough capacity to successfully prepare the programme closure by the end of 2015. It was highlighted that the SEE MA was ultimately responsible for securing programme closure.

The MC members were presented with a proposal for covering the costs of the Audit Authority beyond 2015. The SEE JTS was requested to check possible solutions from TA savings and other options. It was agreed that formal decision would be made by written procedure once all options are presented.

The SEE MA and JTS, as well as the EC put forward their positions on the de-commitment process (n+3 for 2013). SEE programme made an effort to contest the de-commitment on the ground of *force*

majeure. In the end the MC acknowledged that according to the official communication of the EC, which was expected to be received after the meeting, the programme budget will be revised and adopted in a written procedure.

SEE JTS presented several scenarios for ensuring programme ERDF liquidity beyond the 95%. However, the discussion could not yield a definitive decision. It was proposed to wait until in 2015 project closure could provide more realistic view on the financial situation.

An additional ENPI project to enhance the capacity of national administration for involvement of transnational cooperation was proposed by the EC and the Republic of Moldova. The SEE MC gave the EC and the SEE programme management the mandate to further investigate this possibility.

2.7.2 Description of the project monitoring tools

The Programme applies different tools in order to monitor the progress of projects. Progress Reports, Monitoring Visits, project modifications and daily communication were used from the very beginning of programme implementation. Since 2013 as part of the monitoring system improvement SEE programme introduced also the Final Activity Report (FAR) and the SEE Wizard (SEE MOW).

a. Progress Reports

The main monitoring tool used is the electronic Progress Report, which each project is required to submit at least twice a year. The report gives insight into project activities, outputs, achievements, stakeholder engagement, and any issues that came up during project implementation. Financial data for verified expenditure on project and partner level is also collected via the Progress Reports.

The 2nd CfP project activities were finalised by 31st August 2014. In 2014 10 of the 26 projects were financially closed by the SEE JTS. One project was closed already in 2013. In total, projects have submitted 7 rounds of progress reports with the final one expected by spring 2015. So far they have absorbed 70.63% of their contracted ERDF contribution. By the end of 2014 the total disbursed amount of ERDF funds for 2nd CfP operations (all 26 projects) was ca. EUR 33M.

The activities of 3rd CfP projects were finalised by the end of 2014. Almost EUR 12M from ERDF has been disbursed to the eight projects in this call thus far (7 progress reporting rounds). This is around 45% of the contracted ERDF contribution. After the administrative closure of the projects in 2015 it is expected that another EUR 14.5M will be disbursed. The disbursement rate is lower for IPA partners, i.e. 37.76%. Close to EUR 1.4M has been disbursed to these partners with another ca. EUR 3M expected in 2015 (absorption rate of 32%).

The activities of 4th CfP projects were also finalised by the end of 2014. So far a little more than EUR 32M has been reimbursed to the ERDF partners in the 48 projects in 5 reporting periods. More than EUR 39M is still to be paid out until the administrative project closure in 2015. This puts the ERDF absorption at 45.31%. Reimbursed IPA contribution amounts to EUR 4.4M with remaining more than EUR 7M in the pipeline. Thus the disbursed IPA amount reaches 37.98% of the contracted funds.

b. Final Activity Report (FAR)

The final version of the FAR template was introduced in 2013. It is designed to complement the data gathered through the Monitoring Wizard. FAR allows for obtaining a comprehensive overview of project achievements in terms of activities, involvement and impact on stakeholders, location and details of pilots, sustainability measures and overall impact reached. The focus is on the qualitative aspects of the implemented project. The report does not collect financial data.

Since the FAR was introduced after the 1st call projects finalisation only 26 out of the 40 projects returned a completed FAR. The reason was that the FAR obligation was introduced in the subsidy

contracts from the 2nd call on. Still 65% of 1st call projects submitted a FAR, which made possible a qualitative analysis of their achievements provided in the previous implementation report.

As all 2nd, 3rd and 4th call projects finalised their activities by the end of 2014, they were all requested to submit a FAR in early 2015. More details on the data collected from these projects can be found in *section 2.1.6 Qualitative analysis, in chapter 3 Implementation by Priority, as well as in Annex III Sustainability and Follow up*.

c. SEE Monitoring Wizard

The SEE Monitoring Wizard tool complements the standard reporting tools by providing a clearer link between programme and project indicators. The general monitoring system (i.e. IMIS) does not collect information on project contributions to programme operational objectives, or to thematic codes (ref. Council Regulation 1828/2006, Annex II). With the introduction of the SEE MOW this gap was closed.

The first round of SEE MOW application was in 2013 when quantitative data on project implementation was obtained from 119 out of the 122 projects supported by SEE. This allowed for the generation of a comparative analytical report, summarising project data on physical and financial indicators. The report proved essential for the preparation of last year's annual report.

At the end of 2014 with the wind-up of SEE projects' implementation phase the programme requested all 2nd, 3rd and 4th call projects to submit a SEE MOW for the last time. The data obtained this way is reflected throughout the present implementation report and especially in section *2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme*, *2.1.6 Qualitative analysis* and *chapter 3 Implementation by priority*.

d. Monitoring visits

Monitoring visits are used by SEE JTS Project Managers as an additional monitoring tool, presenting a good opportunity to gain a better insight into the functioning of partnerships, as well as into the content and quality of project outcomes. Such a visit is usually preceded by a collection of a number of documents from the Lead Partner related to the progress of project implementation. These documents can include, for instance, copy of relevant correspondence within the partnership, minutes of the steering committee meetings, internal monitoring tools, status documents of external expertise contracts, (draft) interim performance outputs. Monitoring visits are most often made on the occasion of project meetings or events. They result in recommendations for projects, in case any irregularity or a problem has been noticed. Project Managers use a Monitoring visit checklist consisting of 26 questions to evaluate project progress.

In 2014 the JTS carried out 25 monitoring / project visits:

Ref.	Project acronym	Monitoring visit no. 1	Monitoring visit no. 2
SEE/D/0335/1.3/X	Noble Ideas	11.03.2014	
SEE/C/0008/1.3/X	ClusterPoliSEE	07.10.2014	
SEE/B/0025/1.3/X	Eval Inno	17.01.2014	
SEE/B/0039/1.3/X	FORSEE	27.03.2014	
SEE/D/0267/1.3/X	SEE INNOVA	11.11.2014	
SEE/D0162/2.4/X	GeoSEE	25.03.2014	
SEE/D0206/2.4/X	EnVision'2020	27.03.2014	
SEE/D/0155/2.2/X	GuardEn	29-30.05.2014	
SEE/C/0003/3.3/X	GIFT	26.11.2014	

SEE/C/0005/3.1/X	RAIL4SEE	15-16.10.2014	
SEE/D/0199/2.2/X	CO-WANDA	25.02.2014	
SEE/D/0066/3.1/X	NEWADAduo	10.10.2014	
SEE/B/0004/3.1/X	ATTAC	13.03.2014	
SEE/D/0082/3.2/X	PPP4Broadband	08-09.12.2014	
SEE/D/0088/3.1/X	SENSOR	26.09.2014	
SEE/D/0097/3.1/X	ROSEE	26-27.05.2014	
SEE/D/0067/3.2/X	SEE TV WEB	05-07.02.2014	
SEE/D/0060/3.1/X	TRANSDANUBE	13.02.2014	
SEE/B/0005/3.1/X	Access2Mountain	01-02.04.2014	
SEE/B/0001/3.1/X	SETA	14.03.2014	
SEE/D/0094/3.2/X	SECOVIA	14-15.04.2014	
SEE/D/0089/3.2/X	SIVA	15-16.09.2014	
SEE/C/0004/3.3/X	ADB Multiplatform	27.11.2014	
SEE/D/0093/3.3/X	ACROSSEE	05.12.2014	
SEE/D/0166/2.4/X	LOCSEE	17-18.12.2014	

Monitoring visits are carried out following specific *Guidelines for Planning, Implementation and Follow-up of Monitoring Visits*, which are complemented by a set of templates, i.e. a Monitoring visit template, a Monitoring visit report, Projects Progress Internal Overview document.

These tools ensure a uniform approach to carrying out Monitoring visits, monitoring of qualitative progress and better utilisation of collected data.

The project visits listed in the table include participations at the project closing events as well

e. Project Modifications

In principle, in the framework of SEE programme there have been **three types of modifications** requested by projects, i.e. change in **partnership** (partner withdrawal and replacement by new partner, or partner drop-out without replacement), **budget** modifications, and extension of project **duration**.

Partnership changes marked the start-up phase of all calls for proposals. It seems that some project partners realise their limited capacity and resources in the context of transnational cooperation only once the contracting phase has been initiated. Another reason for these early withdrawals, as stated by projects themselves, was deep institutional, financial, personal changes that took place in partner organisations during the period between project generation and project contracting.

By the end of 2014 in total 56 modifications were requested by the 26 projects approved within the **2nd Call.** Each project underwent at least one modification but two projects (Green Mountain and ATTAC) had four. The highest number of project changes was requested by PA4 operations – 33% of all modifications. PA1 were the least likely to opt for a change in budget, partnership or duration.

So far the 8 projects approved within the **3rd Call** underwent in total 18 project modifications. Only one project – MMWD – did not request any modification. The highest number of modifications was made to the GIFT project – 4. The highest number of modification was requested by PA3 projects – half of all modifications. One characteristic feature of the 3rd call projects is that the budget reallocation within the 10% limit is applied more often than in the other calls. Again this is due to the specific nature of project activities, whose details are more difficult to forecast.

By the end of 2014 the forty-eight **4th Call** projects requested in total 57 modifications. 8 projects managed to carry out their activities without a single modification of budget, partnership or duration:

FOROPA, SEETechnology, FaRInn, NO-BLE Ideas, CO-WANDA, Danube Parks Step 2.0, SECOVIA, and InTourAct Of all project changes ca.32% came from PA3 operations – the most likely to request modifications in this last call. In general, however, the average number of modifications in 4th call projects was lower than in the previous calls.

f. Daily communication

Daily communication between the JTS and the projects is ensured via email, telephone and project visits at JTS premises.

2.7.3   Overview of IMIS 2007-2013 Monitoring and Information System of the SEE programme
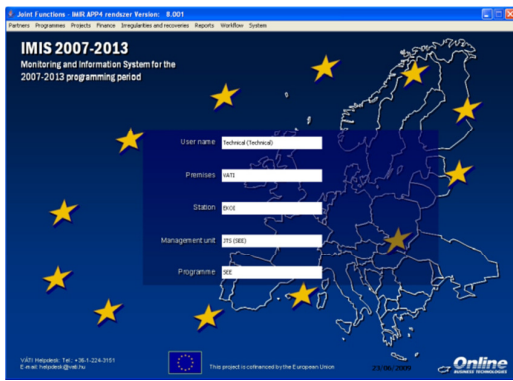
The programme's integrated management system is supported by an efficient and reliable Monitoring and Information System, the IMIS 2007-2013. The overall purpose of the system is the efficient and reliable management of programme and project level implementation and as a Management Information System it focuses on the collection and monitoring of programme and project level data. This IT system is a practical tool for the responsible bodies (Managing Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat, Contact Points, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Financial Transfer Unit, etc.) when performing their tasks.
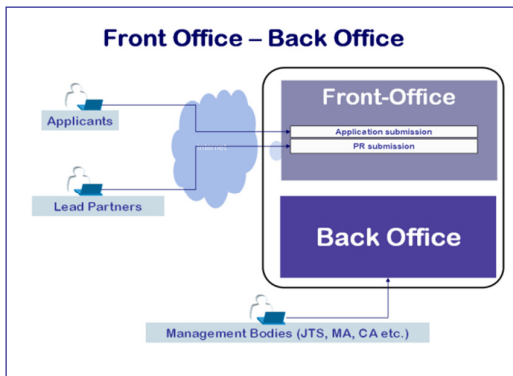
a. Comprehensive and complex functionality

The system functionality is based on Lead Partner principle and handles all management responsibilities through the whole programme and project life-cycle. The system has two interfaces, a Front Office and a Back Office.

The Front Office is used by Lead Applicants and Lead Beneficiaries to submit online first their Application Forms then their Progress Reports and Applications for Reimbursement. The Back Office is used by the different programme management bodies as a management and monitoring tool, e.g. checking Progress Reports, generating statistics.

The system's scope covers all joint programme and project level tasks as follows:

- Programme and call for proposals management: the adequately recorded programme data creates the basis for all sorts of further monitoring activities. Thus programme data like priority structure, budget, indicators etc. are recorded in order to facilitate programme-level monitoring and aggregations. Following the programme data input each round of calls shall be recorded in the system by entering its basic identification and financial data and by setting its specific parameters to be fulfilled by the submitted applications.

- Application module: one of the system's outstanding features is that applicants can submit their applications electronically through a Front Office surface. This submission is faster and simpler than

the previous Excel-based rounds. The evaluations of applications are also recorded by the Joint Technical Secretariat in the Back Office of the system.

- Project module: functionality of the project module ensures tracking the whole life-cycle of projects including TA projects as the system facilitates the management and monitoring of a great number of project related tasks (project data entry, management of progress reports and applications for reimbursement, follow-up of indicators, etc.). Another remarkable characteristic of the IMIS 2007-2013 is the electronic submission of Progress Reports and Applications for Reimbursement through the Front Office surface of the system. The submitted reports are processed by the JTS in the Back Office of the system on the basis of a strict pre-defined built-in verification process.

- Financial management: the financial module is also a crucial part of the system's functionality. It ensures the sound management of EU funds including the transfer of ERDF funds to Lead Partners, the preparation of applications for payment to be submitted to the European Commission and the reconciliation of programme bank accounts.

- Irregularity management: In case an irregularity is suspected and/or established during a project's implementation then the irregularity procedure with all of its financial consequences are tracked in the system.

- Reporting: in addition to the official documents generated on the basis of built-in templates by the system the user can access a wide range of pre-defined reports that help the work of programme bodies.

b. Sophisticated access right and workflow management

The IMIS 2007-2013 operates a sophisticated access rights system: access to functions and data is restricted by organizational membership, level of hierarchy and geographic location. All operations in the system are directed by workflow management: the IMIS 2007-2013 workflow engine guarantees that process steps have to be completed in sequence according to the audit trail and it also checks whether the user is authorized to accomplish a certain task. All workflow processes – thus all user activities - are saved and stored.

c. Internet based IT tool

Considering the relatively high number of bodies and users involved in programme implementation, the system operates and accessible online, via the Internet. This solution facilitates simultaneous data input and flexible data storage capacity.

d. Technical background

From a technical point of view the system keeps a record in the system diary (technical audit trail) of all events that should be recorded for security reasons and for follow-up analysis. The technical audit trail is a write-protected database area where only the system is authorized to record or modify data. The database is archived on a regular basis, and all sort of deletion are strictly prohibited owing to security rules. The technical audit trail data can be queried by variable filtering options. The system is based on a state-of-the-art 3-tiered architecture: a Java-based thin client, a server-side application server and an industry-standard Oracle database.

e. System related activities in 2014

- In 2014 the system-supported **payment procedures** to Lead Partners continued to be regular.

- The **TA financial management procedures for the SCPs** continued to be regular. In 2014, TA Progress Reports and Applications for Reimbursement had been submitted online through the Front Office of the IMIS 2007-2013 Monitoring and Information System for most of the SCPs as TA beneficiaries.

- For the Lead Partners and Lead Applicants, **day-to-day support** was provided: the JTS provides support in content-related questions and the IMIS Unit in VATI provides continuous technical support.

- The **maintenance and further development of the system**, including error management and new developments, is managed by the IMIS Unit in VATI/ SZPO in close cooperation with the SEE JTS.

f. Further developments of the system in 2014:

- The specification of Irregularities and recoveries modules and the project closure function is finished in 2013. The introduction occurred in 2014.

- The system requisites further more development of the ENPI funds, for which the specification of the project module is prepared, and ENPI finance module and TA functions are under preparation.

- During the operation of the IMIS 2007-2013 **no substantial errors/problems occurred** in the functioning of the system.

2.7.4   Result of audits in 2014

Annual Control Report 2014

The Annual Control Report and the Annual Opinion for the SEE Programme was submitted to the European Commission on 19.12.2014. Based on the audits carried out it could be stated that the management and control system established for the South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme complied with the applicable requirements of Articles 58 to 62 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Section 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 and functioned effectively so as to provide reasonable assurance that statements of expenditure presented to the Commission in 2013 are correct and, as a consequence, reasonable assurance that the underlying transactions are legal and regular.

System audit

The **system audit of 2013** started in December 2013 and was in progress in 2014. The focus areas of the system audit were defined in terms of the key requirements set out in the Commission Guidance Note No COCOF 08/0019/01-EN as follows:
  • *Adequate information and strategy to provide guidance to beneficiaries (MA KR3)*
  • *Adequate management verifications (MA KR4*
  • *Satisfactory arrangements for keeping an account of amounts recoverable and for recovery of undue payments (CA KR4)*

Additionally the audit was extended to examine the changes in the set-up of the institution hosting the Managing Authority and the Hungarian National Authority on the functioning of the MCS of the programme, which took place at the beginning of 2014, between 1st of January 2014 and 15th of

February 2014. The additional audit focused on the document based review of the central and organisational regulatory framework and compliance with Community regulations, human and organisational resources available for the performance of tasks, the separation of tasks and functional independence and the examination of the delegation of tasks.

Based on the classification of the relevant key requirements regarding the performance of the MA, JTS, CA and the FLC Bodies, the management and control system of the SEE Programme **can be classified into the first category: works well, only minor improvements are needed.**

<u>Audits on operation</u>

The **audits on operation carried out in 2014** concerned expenditures declared by beneficiaries between 01.01.2013-31.12.2013. The audits were carried out based on a sample of operations selected by the Audit Authority, and approved by the GoA on the 26 March 2014. The sample check of the projects was performed during the 2nd quarter of the year. Most of the final audit reports had been delivered in August and September 2014. Measures to be taken in case of findings with financial impact were done during the approval of the next Progress reports and in case of closed projects request for repayment were communicated to the Lead Partners and Member States.

<u>IPA compliance assessment</u>

The IPA Financing Agreement Art. 27. (1) regulates that the *„Approval of the control system by the AA is a precondition for reimbursement of IPA contribution to the IPA project partners".*

In order to perform the compliance assessment, the following pre-conditions shall be available:

- signed IPA Financing Agreement for the given IPA Partner State: each IPA Partner State signed the Financing Agreement;

- IPA control system description available: IPA control system descriptions are part of the DMCS of the Programme, up-dated in 2012 (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) and in 2013 (Croatia);

- officially designated member(s) of GoA from the involved IPA Partner States

- The **compliance assessment of the IPA Control Systems** started for the IPA countries after the signing of the IPA Financing Agreements. The compliance assessment was finalised (compliance assessment of the control system performed by the national member of the Group of Auditors and confirmed by AA:

- Serbia (15.07.2013)

- Croatia (16.05.2013)

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (26.09.2013)

- Montenegro (12.12.2013)

- Albania: 19.03.2014

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 25.06.2014

2.7.5   Evaluation of the Programme

In 2014 together with the Annual Implementation Report for 2013 the SEE programme for the first time submitted a one-page summary of capturing some of the main programme achievements. The summary was requested with EC letter Ares (2014)428582-20/02/2014. It is through this summary that SEE programme contributes to the ex-post evaluation of European territorial cooperation programmes 2007-2013. The evaluation itself is contracted by the EC.

In November 2014 the SEE JTS initiated internal discussions on the need of individual evaluation of the SEE programme in addition to the ex-post evaluation coordinated by the EC. In December 2014 an end-of-programme consultation was launched to check with MC members their attitude towards such an initiative. The consultation was concluded at the beginning of 2015 with a decision to go on with procuring end-of-programme evaluation based upon the pathway to change approach as referenced in the EVALSED evaluation sourcebook[3].

In 2014 SEE programme performed an in-house evaluation of the programme capitalisation strategy via an online survey to both programme staff and projects that had been involved in the initiative. According to the survey feedback[4] 51% of respondents considered networking with peer projects to be the most important part of the capitalisation initiative. On average 64% of projects involved in SEE Capitalisation shared know-how and results through concrete joint activities with at least 3 other projects. Reportedly 54% of projects managed to re-use available knowledge to avoid duplication, incorporate existing know-how into new products, or extend the usability of results. Projects also shared their vision of a future capitalisation process, e.g. more top-down approach, start at the beginning of the programme, etc. This feedback has been considered in the capitalisation strategy of the Danube programme (2014-2020).

On programme level, 4 out of the 5 SEE Project Managers revealed that capitalisation had provided better overview of thematic achievements.

The evaluation report and a pictographic summarising the main findings are available here:
http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/news_and_events/news/seecapitalisationevaluated

2.7.6 Task Force meetings

SEE programme started preparations for the 2014-2020 programming period in 2012. The first Task Force meeting took place on 16th February 2012 in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova), just a few days after the European Commission presented its proposal for the Common Strategic Framework. On 5th June 2012 the EC held an informal meeting with Member States on the future of European Territorial Cooperation, which indicated that two new programmes would replace SEE, i.e. Danube and Southeast Gateway (later Adriatic-Ionian, i.e. ADRION). Consequently, two new TFs had to be set up, previous procurement procedures had to be stopped and two new procurement processes were initiated for cooperation programme (CP) drafting and ex-ante & SEA evaluation. On 19th December 2013 the EC informed SEE programme stakeholders that a third new programme will succeed SEE in the region, i.e. Balkan-Mediterranean Arc (later only Balkan-Mediterranean). SEE did not have to do the procurement of external services for the latter but Greek TA national allocation was used for this purpose after SEE MC approval.

In the case of ADRION programme SEE JTS subcontracted the CP drafters and ex-ante & SEA evaluators. SEE JTS was involved in eligibility and quality check of submitted offers, as well. Due to the late selection of a Managing Authority SEE JTS had to also provide technical support in the beginning of the cooperation programme development process.

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3   http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/information/publications/evaluations-guidance-documents/2013/evalsed-the-resource-for-the-evaluation-of-socio-economic-development-evaluation-guide

4 In total 94 SEE projects engaged in the programme capitalisation initiative. 35 of them (37%) gave full replies to the evaluation survey.

Similarly SEE JTS procured the ex-ante & SEA evaluators for the Danube programme and was involved in the quality assessment of offers both for the evaluation, as well as for the CP drafting (subcontracted by Danube MA).

In addition, the SEE JTS presented programme achievements and lessons learnt for the future at some of the stakeholder consultation events of ADRION and Danube programmes.

In 2014 the ADRION programme held seven task force meetings, the Balkan-Mediterranean – three task force and one working group meetings, and the Danube programme – four programming committee meetings and one meeting with EUSDR PACs. SEE representatives attended almost all meetings as observer.

Task Force meetings in 2014

- **1 April – Zagreb:** regulatory framework and EUSAIR update received from EC; procured experts presented CP drafting and ex-ante & SEA evaluation plan and timeline;
- **23 May – Belgrade:** selected MA; territorial analysis , programme strategy and thematic focus, SEA scoping discussed.
- **21-22 July – Bologna:** final thematic focus and draft environmental report agreed; stakeholder survey results, TO 11, timeline for CP agreement on national level discussed.
- **4 September – Ancona:** CP text , TO 11 strategy , financial plan, stakeholder workshops feedback discussed.
- **19 September – Brussels:** draft final ex-ante & SEA report, fine-tuning of CP text discussed.
- **9-10 October – Thessaloniki:** final consolidation of CP text, update on EUSAIR developments, programme JS staffing, financial plan, final ex-ante & SEA report, branding, e-monitoring system discussed.
- **10-11 December – Zagreb:** updates on CP, ex-ante & SEA, programme management system, e-monitoring system, JS staffing, EUSAIR discussed.

Task Force meetings in 2014

- **11 February – Thessaloniki:** selected MA; procurement for programme preparation discussed.
- **23 May – Sofia:** procured experts for CP drafting and ex-ante & SEA evaluation presented working plan and timeline; public consultation, JS staffing , programme funding discussed.
- **19 August – Nicosia:** draft CP, ex-ante & SEA, programme funding and management discussed.

Programming Committee meetings in 2014

- **25-26 March – Ljubljana:** tendering for OP drafting, thematic focus, territorial analysis, IPA II and ENI funds, EUSDR support discussed; MA/JS structure presented.
- **13-14 May – Budapest:** revised territorial analysis, programme strategy, financial plan, implementation provisions, discussed.
- **3-4 July – Split:** programme strategy, objective 11, programme management, TA budget discussed.
- **1-3 September – Brussels:** programme management structure and staffing, cooperation programme state of play, timetable for finalisation of CP text discussed.

The Balkan-Mediterranean programme was submitted to the European Commission on 22 September and the ADRION – on 18 December 2014.

3 IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIORITY

3.1 Priority 1

3.1.1 Analysis of the progress

The four calls of the Programme resulted in the funding of thirty one Priority 1 projects with an initial project partner planned budget totalling ERDF circa EUR 46,5M and circa EUR 5,3M IPA. By the end of 2014, 429 partners (not including observers) were involved. In terms of country level partner representation it is noticeable that Italy has been particularly well represented at Lead Partner level with 42% of the projects having an Italian Lead Partner. The balance of partner representation per country is much more evenly spread across the thirty one projects.

One of the core elements of Priority 1 has been the development of innovation networks of knowledge triangle actors, both in specific fields and more generic supportive types. As the Programme developed from call to call this developing critical mass of actors tended to become more refined along the lines of a triple helix type approach. Coordinated network activity enabled the mutual cooperation towards results such as a strategic research agenda for embedded systems and industrial informatics, feasibility studies and cooperation agreement for business parks; development of a meta cluster in the auto sector; a SEE Forum in the Agro Food sector; best practice collections for serious gaming; research valorisation and exploitation tested processes; clustering of SMEs in Agro Food sector and a social network for social entrepreneurs.

Supporting the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurs proved to be the most popular field of activity for the Programme. Given the general administrative and political drive towards this type of development activity such popularity could be expected. In the early phase of the Programme the tendency was for relatively standard SME support activity to be proposed although as the Programme progressed the understanding of the need to provide ideas with added value and transnational relevance strengthened. Supportive SME activity included investigations into innovative financing mechanisms, support and portal for intellectual property rights; knowledge transfer to SMEs (idea valorisation and exploitation); business clustering models for social entrepreneurship including collaborations with for-profit business.

In the approach to developing the framework conditions for innovation the Programme focused on two broad aspects, namely, the governance and policy structures and processes, and secondly developing the public resource. Due to the relative lack of interest in this related 1.3 Area of Intervention, with only one project funded in the first call, the Programme developed a targeted second call for this area of intervention. This call along with the strategic third call and the final call developed a fair portfolio of activity although on the public aspect the Programme only had two projects which specifically developing the public resource; a virtual science centre with a network of science centres and policy level recommendations and one which highlighted responsible innovation at the public level and capacity built at the policy level. With the governance and policy aspect, projects provided a cluster policy learning platform; policy learning mechanisms for clusters; S3 training packages; methodology guides for policy planning including transnational foresight planning in the ICT sector; action plans to provide an instrument that enables regional decision-makers to implement an efficient multidisciplinary and integrated policy to independent living, based on local strategic partnership; developed RTDI evaluation culture and guidelines for evaluating RTDI programmes; strengthened capacity of institutions to design and develop responsible innovation strategies.

It was evident with implementation that the success of projects was dependant on numerous factors including having an effective LP, the right partnership combination, ability to manage financial considerations/difficulties and also importantly having an inspiring idea. In the context of effective transnational projects it was evident that whilst those projects which tackle topics of high demand e.g. SME support activity are highly popular and can be effective those project which are linked to new or

relatively unsupported fields of activity such as social entrepreneurship/social innovation tend to be highly motivated and provide significant footprints and contribution to further work. Projects which also managed to tap into enthusiastic stakeholder groups, young researchers; the general public or ambitious organisational bodies (typically IPA country origin) tended to be driven by this enthusiasm. Finally it was also evident that projects which cohere with the current or near future policy direction as with the Programme's strategic project ClusterPoliSEE have an increased motivation and opportunity.

All projects completed their activity by the end of 2014. All second call project final reports are anticipated to be closed by the end of May 2015 and closure of 4th Call projects is largely dependent on FLC backlog clearance.

3.1.2   Achievement of targets

The following tables summarise the indicator data for Priority 1 projects (all calls) reported for 2014.

Output Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of articles/appearances published in the press and in other media (including online media, TV, radio)	no.	0	1,372	2,904
02. No of press conferences	no.	0	299	250
03. Average of hits per month on the project's website(no.)	no.	0	41,060	186,246
04. No of publications produced (editions, specify: e.g. folder, newsletter, brochure, report, guideline, handbook), No of copies disseminated	no.	0	91,576	79,621
05. No of transnational events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	6,609	8,598
06. No of national events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	690	171
07. No of regional events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	1,302	462
08. No of study visits organised, no of participants involved	no.	0	222	313
09. No of studies produced	no.	0	758	994
10. No of guidelines produced	no.	0	99	100
11. No of management plans developed	no.	0	81	60
12. No of joint action plans produced	no.	0	63	48
13. No of databases created or improved	no.	0	61	56
14. No of training events, seminars organised	no.	0	436	476
15. No of participants involved in trainings and seminars	no.	0	17,203	12,558
16. No of individuals that participated in exchange schemes	no.	0	1,445	1,240
17. No of promotion concepts	no.	0	76	56
18. No of promotion actions	no.	0	290	320
19. No of services developed	no.	0	310	129
20. No of small scale infrastructure projects	no.	0	1	1
21. No of person in charge for administration of projects	no.	0	499	625
22. No of project meetings held	no.	0	273	264

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of permanent information sources / channels in project (e.g. websites, regular publications)	no.	0	108	151
02. No of individuals reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	904,410	4,708,107
03. No of administrative actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	11,405	26,315
04. No of private sector actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	98,509	751,831
05. No of SME reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	75,541	236,003
06. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to increase the projects visibility among experts and wider communities, the public (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	75	51
07. No of common positions / agreements formulated	no.	0	127	68
08. No of common methodologies adopted	no.	0	70	68
09. No of strategies adopted at governmental level	no.	0	47	12
10. No of innovative products developed	no.	0	112	79
11. No of regional/local policies and instruments improved or developed	no.	0	182	95
12. No of common standards established (e.g. through new guidelines)	no.	0	25	18
13. No of new tools / instruments developed	no.	0	82	86
14. No of impact studies on environmental issues carried out (e.g. in pre-investment projects)	no.	0	1	0
15. No of pilot actions prepared (first application)	no.	0	527	515
16. No of pilot actions implemented (first application)	no.	0	148	92
17. No permanent exchange programmes established	no.	0	7	6
18. No of staff members with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills)	no.	0	2,151	2,003
19. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to improve knowledge management within the partnership (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	58	60
20. No of regions proactively promoted	no.	0	200	150
21. No of common management structures / systems established	no.	0	49	61
22. No of individuals benefiting directly from new / improved services	no.	0	118,917	105,548

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
23. No of investment proposals developed (if possible specify volume of investment)	no.	0	971	326 /volume: EUR 5 mill/
24. No of private market reactions achieved (e.g. private activities mobilized)	no.	0	1,419	671
25. No of investment projects implemented (specify volume of investment)	no.	0	7	1 /volume: EUR 2,052,500 /
26. No of infrastructures of common interest improved	no.	0	2	2

3.2   Priority 2

3.2.1   *Analysis of the progress*

Environmental topics proved to be of high interest for programme applicants. In the four calls launched by the SEE Programme, a total number of 34 projects under priority 2 have been approved and received financial support, namely ca. EUR 45,5M ERDF and more than EUR 4M IPA. An overall number of 420 partners contributed in implementing the approved projects, mainly coming from Romania, Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria. It is to be mentioned that no Slovakian LP were present in Priority 2 projects and that this priority hosted the only Bulgarian LP among all projects approved by the SEE Programme.

Under AoI 2.1 Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention, 5 projects addressing water management in general contributed to achieve the programme objectives. Flood risk prevention was tackled by a strategic project that covered all countries crossed by the Danube river and its tributaries and demonstrated an exceptional stakeholders outreach by involving them in the development of each project output. The project received the status of EUSDR flagship project at the end of its implementation.

Under AoI 2.2 Improve prevention of environmental risks, 10 projects addressed the prevention of environmental risks. This AoI addressed also climate change adaptation measures covering a wide programme area. The SEERISK project remarkably managed to address the disaster management practices along the middle and lower Danube basin area by producing risk maps with harmonised parameters supported by an innovative GIS intervention planning tool, which have strong potentials to be used at EU level and beyond.

AoI 2.3 Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas was addressed by 6 projects. This AoI covered several aspects of nature protection, namely mountain areas, NATURA 2000 sites, protected areas along the Danube River. The DANUBEPARKS project succeeded to create a brand out of a project, widely known among the protected areas along the Danube River, with whom it institutionalised a platform into a sustainable organisational structure with legal personality aimed at improving Danube-wide nature conservation. DANUBEPARKS with its follow-up project (DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0) have received the status of EUSDR flagship projects.

AoI 2.4 Promote energy and resource efficiency was addressed by 13 projects. By far, this AoI demonstrated the tremendous interest of stakeholders towards the topics of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The direct involvement of local authorities in promoting energy efficiency and in using renewable energy sources has been remarkable not only for the interest that generated among other local authorities (municipalities of small, medium and capital cities) but also for the concrete outcomes achieved. The MILD HOME project engaged the administration and community of the 8 pilot municipalities in all phases of the project (study of local economy profile, residential needs and income profile of potential 'mild home' users). Local communities took part in a consultation process to clarify their residence needs and energy use habits, strengthening their institutional sustainability by providing them the know-how to replicate these processes in the near future.

The experience, enthusiasm and professional attitude of some Lead Partners were factors that drove projects to successful outcomes (e.g. DANUBEPARKS). Projects with a mature background, either because they were a follow-up of previous projects or because of the good project preparation, demonstrated a stronger stakeholders' engagement (e.g. SEE RIVER), and managed to better embed project outcomes on policy level or in daily work of public authorities (e.g. ENER SUPPLY).

3.2.2 Achievement of targets

The following tables summarise the indicator data for Priority 2 projects (all calls) reported for 2014.

Output Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of articles/appearances published in the press and in other media (including online media, TV, radio)	no.	0	1,897	2,802
02. No of press conferences	no.	0	446	161
03. Average of hits per month on the project's website(no.)	no.	0	369,715	285,276
04. No of publications produced (editions, specify: e.g. folder, newsletter, brochure, report, guideline, handbook), No of copies disseminated	no.	0	78,153	66,763
05. No of transnational events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	210	148
06. No of national events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	212	250
07. No of regional events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	828	515
08. No of study visits organised, no of participants involved	no.	0	126	216
09. No of studies produced	no.	0	432	332
10. No of guidelines produced	no.	0	134	111
11. No of management plans developed	no.	0	118	94
12. No of joint action plans produced	no.	0	113	57
13. No of databases created or improved	no.	0	106	88
14. No of training events, seminars organised	no.	0	480	353
15. No of participants involved in trainings and seminars	no.	0	8,507	8,793
16. No of individuals that participated in exchange schemes	no.	0	3,075	1,818
17. No of promotion concepts	no.	0	74	46
18. No of promotion actions	no.	0	691	693
19. No of services developed	no.	0	84	75
20. No of small scale infrastructure projects	no.	0	11	10
21. No of person in charge for administration of projects	no.	0	493	522
22. No of project meetings held	no.	0	450	394

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of permanent information sources / channels in project (e.g. websites, regular publications)	no.	0	140	101
02. No of individuals reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	844,307	4,838,215
03. No of administrative actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	18,296	30,095
04. No of private sector actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	17,387	48,100
05. No of SME reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	6,387	34,955
06. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to increase the projects visibility among experts and wider communities, the public (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	64	59
07. No of common positions / agreements formulated	no.	0	117	102
08. No of common methodologies adopted	no.	0	88	83
09. No of strategies adopted at governmental level	no.	0	75	29
10. No of innovative products developed	no.	0	62	60
11. No of regional/local policies and instruments improved or developed	no.	0	246	166
12. No of common standards established (e.g. through new guidelines)	no.	0	67	66
13. No of new tools / instruments developed	no.	0	64	51
14. No of impact studies on environmental issues carried out (e.g. in pre-investment projects)	no.	0	87	66
15. No of pilot actions prepared (first application)	no.	0	179	167
16. No of pilot actions implemented (first application)	no.	0	185	164
17. No permanent exchange programmes established	no.	0	20	20
18. No of staff members with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills)	no.	0	2,394	2,128
19. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to improve knowledge management within the partnership (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	70	76
20. No of regions proactively promoted	no.	0	229	161
21. No of common management structures / systems established	no.	0	54	57
22. No of individuals benefiting directly from new / improved services	no.	0	5,524,602	5,418,643

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
23. No of investment proposals developed (if possible specify volume of investment)	no.	0	216	261 /volume:E UR 2,100,000 /
24. No of private market reactions achieved (e.g. private activities mobilized)	no.	0	111	142
25. No of investment projects implemented (specify volume of investment)	no.	0	290,146	180,000
26. No of infrastructures of common interest improved	no.	0	51	26

3.3 Priority 3

3.3.1 Analysis of the progress

Priority 3 "Improvement of Accessibility" attracted the lowest number of Expression of Interests/Applications in all calls for proposals, compared to the other priorities, with only overall 25 projects financed in spite of the high need for transnational action in the thematic areas – physical and virtual accessibility – tackled by the priority. Overall, the amount of funds invested in the priority is equal to EUR 43,867,491.00 ERDF funds, as well as EUR 4,341,368.00 IPA funds. Two projects of the 4th Call for proposals have involved partners from ENPI countries as well. The countries which have been involved the most in the projects of this priority have been Italy, Austria and Greece. Slovenia, possibly for its strategic geographical position and its relation with the IPA countries in the region, has been largely involved in the project of accessibility. Among the IPA countries, Croatia has played a very important role, both on the side of the maritime ports and the ports on the Danube.

There are many reasons for the small number of projects awarded within this priority; however, to better understand, it is necessary to focus separately on physical and virtual accessibility. Starting with the first, for once, the topic of transport requires large efforts even if restricting the approach to soft cooperation activities, and, second, the beneficiaries 'competence on this topic is often concentrated only at a national level, within the national ministries in charge, which resulted in limited capacity. For what concerns virtual accessibility, whilst a large number of proposals have been submitted, the transnational character has most of the times been very limited and/or the proposals oriented towards education and training only. By December 2014, all projects have closed.

As highlighted above, following the broad interpretation of the word "Accessibility", in the period 2007-13, Priority 3 projects have covered two thematic macro-areas: that of physical accessibility, namely transport and mobility, from, to and across the region, and that of virtual accessibility and tackling the digital divide, namely ICT and internet connections.

As far as transport and mobility are concerned, the SEE Programme has addressed all modes except air transport, i.e. mono and multimodal connections, passenger and freight, urban, regional and transnational links from different perspectives. Considering that the highest impact had to be pursued but with a limited budget and within the limited capacity of the few competent bodies, many projects have concentrated on "optimisation" of the existing services and networks, together with harmonisation between the different countries, in addition to measures of information and communication addressing the stakeholders. Given the importance of inland navigation on the river Danube for the region, this has been the objective of different projects, which from different perspective have concentrated on harmonisation of standards for electronic navigation charts and information systems (NEWADA and NEWADAduo), standard for education of navigation professionals (NELI and HINT), logistics services (DaHar, ADB Multiplatform) and their environmental impact (GIFT) and its potential for transport of people as well (TRANSDANUBE). The concentration of corridors of the TEN-T network in the region, has required different intervention, for its revision and extension to the IPA countries(SEETAC and ACROSSEE), as well as safety (SENSOR) and the optimisation of primary connections (SETA), above all when these represent an environmentally friendlier alternative to more polluting modes. Thus an important role has played the intermodality for freight transport (ADB and GIFT) tailored on the specific infrastructure network of the SEE. The right to mobility of people, in a region where it is not at all ensured, has been strongly addressed, first by trying to create a large backbone of transnational accessibility and by connecting this with the regions (RAIL4SEE, TRANSDANUBE), and developing alternative solutions to the motorised individual traffic in sensitive (TRANSDANUBE, ACCESS2MOUNTAIN, Iron Curtain Trail) and urban areas (SEE MMS, ATTAC, ROSEE), favouring information and ICT (SEE-ITS) and safe mobility for all (SENSOR, ROSEE). Projects supported also the coordination among regional and national decision makers in planning infrastructure with transnational impact, the assessment of infrastructure development needs based on traffic scenarios,

the design of strategic connections like links between ports and landlocked areas (WATERMODE, ADB), the improvement of custom procedures and reduction of existing bottlenecks (ACROSSEE). Supported partnerships have aimed at ensuring the continuity of (green) trips, e.g. by connecting hub cities to ensure seamless mobility in SEE region and last mile accessibility.

Physical accessibility projects demonstrated a high capacity to mobilise high-level decision makers and transport operators, e.g. ministries of transport and other relevant policy actors at national and regional level. Several port authorities in the basins of the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea and the Black Sea, along the River Danube, cooperate in SEE projects. Projects on rail connectivity managed to involve as partners railway operating authorities from almost all SEE countries.

As far as virtual accessibility is concerned, projects have concentrated mainly on e-governance (SECOVIA) and broadband connections on marginal and remote areas (SIVA, PPP4broadband) and of specific social groups (SEE TV WEB). Very different and specific has been the projects SEE Digi.TV, on digitalisation of TV signal in large transnational region.

If we could draw a line and try to summarise the specific results of this priority, we would for sure emphasize that the most important result has been mobilising and involving in transnational projects national decision makers (ministries) with important results in terms of knowledge shared, harmonisation of approaches and improved capacity of cooperation in matters of transnational relevance, such as accessibility is. This has created an enhanced regional sense of ownership and awareness that has definitely brought new inputs in the definition of policies and future investments for accessibility, as well as connections (lobby groups) in Brussels. Finally, communication has been a key element of all accessibility projects, i.e. communication between decision-makers but also with local population and other stakeholders.

3.3.2   Achievement of targets

The following tables summarise the indicator data for Priority 3 projects (all calls) reported for 2014.

Output Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of articles/appearances published in the press and in other media (including online media, TV, radio)	no.	0	1,223	1,858
02. No of press conferences	no.	0	168	132
03. Average of hits per month on the project's website(no.)	no.	0	51,468	82,261
04. No of publications produced (editions, specify: e.g. folder, newsletter, brochure, report, guideline, handbook), No of copies disseminated	no.	0	72,403	59,044
05. No of transnational events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	2,381	2,950
06. No of national events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	2,002	273
07. No of regional events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	1,538	409
08. No of study visits organised, no of participants involved	no.	0	184	127
09. No of studies produced	no.	0	285	213
10. No of guidelines produced	no.	0	98	76
11. No of management plans developed	no.	0	58	37
12. No of joint action plans produced	no.	0	93	50
13. No of databases created or improved	no.	0	43	32
14. No of training events, seminars organised	no.	0	125	148
15. No of participants involved in trainings and seminars	no.	0	2,280	3,316
16. No of individuals that participated in exchange schemes	no.	0	3,769	1,257
17. No of promotion concepts	no.	0	202	68
18. No of promotion actions	no.	0	321	223
19. No of services developed	no.	0	63	52
20. No of small scale infrastructure projects	no.	0	31	27
21. No of person in charge for administration of projects	no.	0	373	445
22. No of project meetings held	no.	0	216	275

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of permanent information sources / channels in project (e.g. websites, regular publications)	no.	0	38,578	52,950
02. No of individuals reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	18,237,933	2,524,998
03. No of administrative actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	9,863	6,741
04. No of private sector actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	14,305	5,373
05. No of SME reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	6,559	2,828
06. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to increase the projects visibility among experts and wider communities, the public (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	62	44
07. No of common positions / agreements formulated	no.	0	50	21
08. No of common methodologies adopted	no.	0	66	50
09. No of strategies adopted at governmental level	no.	0	58	8
10. No of innovative products developed	no.	0	165	43
11. No of regional/local policies and instruments improved or developed	no.	0	179	102
12. No of common standards established (e.g. through new guidelines)	no.	0	54	39
13. No of new tools / instruments developed	no.	0	71	59
14. No of impact studies on environmental issues carried out (e.g. in pre-investment projects)	no.	0	19	16
15. No of pilot actions prepared (first application)	no.	0	110	95
16. No of pilot actions implemented (first application)	no.	0	84	71
17. No permanent exchange programmes established	no.	0	9	3
18. No of staff members with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills)	no.	0	1,043	819
19. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to improve knowledge management within the partnership (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	28	210
20. No of regions proactively promoted	no.	0	206	157
21. No of common management structures / systems established	no.	0	39	32
22. No of individuals benefiting directly from new / improved services	no.	0	2,570,424	1,605,890

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
23. No of investment proposals developed (if possible specify volume of investment)	no.	0	243	184 /volume:E UR 28,1 billion/
24. No of private market reactions achieved (e.g. private activities mobilized)	no.	0	433	96
25. No of investment projects implemented (specify volume of investment)	no.	0	153,512	106,379
26. No of infrastructures of common interest improved	no.	0	68	53

3.4 Priority 4

3.4.1 Analysis of the progress

Priority 4 " Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas", in contrast to the rest of SEE priority axes, shows a specific cross-sectoral character as it strongly interlinks economic, environmental, social, cultural as well as governance issues. In the four calls the total number of approved projects reached 32.

The thematic focus of projects funded under this priority axis changed somewhat along the different stages of the programme implementation cycle:

A wide thematic spectrum around urban, rural and polycentric development (Areas of Intervention 4.1 and 4.2) was addressed under the 1st CfP, yet no applications under the Area of Intervention 4.3 (Promote the use of cultural values for development) reached the quality for being funded. Projects approved built upon initiatives undertaken at national or cross-border level and extended them in a transnational dimension. Some, like in the case of DONAUREGIONEN+, sought to strengthen already existing transnational networks. Furthermore certain projects showed high relevance for the Danube macro-region, e.g. DONAUREGIONEN+, DATOURWAY, and TICAD. Despite the broad scope of the projects, their outputs and results aimed unanimously at unleashing endogen development potentials in the SEE area. A good practice in this respect is the project FATE, which managed to initiate very successfully the transfer of land rights over military brownfields from national to regional administration level. This move has paved the way for regenerating military brownfields into low-cost enterprise zones. Since its closure in 2011 FATE has demonstrated a very promising impact in terms of actual investment attraction and business facilitation in the territories involved.

Based on the thematic gap left by the 1st CfP, the 2nd CfP targeted exclusively the exploitation of cultural values in view of sustainable development (Area of Intervention 4.3). Most projects under this Area of Intervention proved a high value added to the SEE project portfolio and in view of the Programme overall objectives, several good practices can be highlighted: ATRIUM tackled an innovative and rather SEE-specific topic, i.e. the exploitation of cultural heritage related to totalitarian regimes. Apart from excellent management and spending performance the project managed to achieve a very concrete as well as sustainable result. It created a new cultural route, which was formally acknowledged by the Council of Europe. Most of the planned results have been achieved. SUSTCULT explored the achievement of sustainability through an integrated approach to the management of cultural heritage. In this respect 1 Common Transnational Methodology which serves as a reference tool for authorities to develop and draft Management Plans (MPs) for heritage sites, was developed. It is complemented by 7 Business Plans and Market Analyses to boost local economies through cultural assets marketing. SY_CULTour aimed to improve of cultural values management in rural areas as a source of economic and social development. The project developed management guidelines equipped with real-life examples and useful management tools and advice. The guidelines can be used by public institutions as well as private enterprises. The project SAGITTARIUS introduced a new concept to utilize natural and cultural heritage resources as leverage for development, paving the way for entrepreneurial innovation. This was mainly achieved through a set of integrated activities, e.g. e-courses in heritage interpretation using state of the art technologies, study on delivery of a high added value Cultural Heritage Consumption Mix, engaging young people into heritage safeguarding, creating a roving museum, etc. Altogether these activities promoted regional development based on using cultural values in an innovative way. The project stands out also from the management point of view and makes use of the latest developments in ICT sector (e.g. all project results are stored using cloud technology). The goal of the RECULTIVATUR partnership was to utilize tangible and intangible religious heritage to support territorial development. This has been achieved by a Common Model for Religious Tourism, supported by Religious Tourism Development Agencies. Project pilot actions in Romania, Hungary, Greece and

Bulgaria assisted relevant regional authorities in improving heritage management and in collaborating transnationally to better promote the SEE region in the international religious tourism market.

The 3rd, strategic CfP, in priority 4 had the thematic focus of "Managing Demographic Change in SEE - Migration and Human Capital as key for sustainable economic growth" with two projects. MMWD aimed at enhancing policy-making, reinforcing public administrations capacity, anticipating and strategically managing the implications of demographic change for growth. SEEMIG addressed the longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of the SEE area and explores their effects on labour markets and national/regional economies. The two projects addressed a clear cooperation gap with high relevance to the Programme area. The top-down generation process allowed involving as partners the key-stakeholders in the field concerned. On the other hand, this turned out to be a major challenge due to the variety of actors and institutional frameworks. Both projects showed a very satisfactory achievement of outputs, reaching a very high level of visibility in the Programme area and beyond.

The 4th CfP finally addressed all three Areas of Intervention, yet showing for Areas of Intervention 4.1 and 4.2 a stronger interest in governance-related topics and approaches. A further new observation was that more applicants tackled social inclusion issues, i.e. one approved project addressed the inclusion of elderly in the labour market and another tackled the social/economic inclusion of Roma.

Overall experiences and results under priority 4 reconfirm a considerable need for transnational cooperation under all three areas of intervention. The value added to programme objectives under areas of intervention 4.1 and 4.2 is most significant for those projects successfully implementing integrated and participatory approaches and/or addressing governance bottlenecks. The interest in area of intervention 4.3 was huge, yet establishing clear linkages between cultural assets and development potentials turned out to be challenging for most stakeholders. Good examples, like CMC, show that a more focused approach is needed in this field for more effectively addressing the existing potentials. Projects addressing the social inclusion dimension of the EU 2020 agenda clearly enriched the Programme portfolio; "light" partnerships – typical for most of the respective projects - composed by civil society actors mainly (e.g. PAIRS) compensated their lack of institutional capacity by a high level of commitment, which can be seen as one of the most "surprising" positive experiences under priority 4. In general it has to be stated that partnership performance was clearly the critical factor – both in a positive as well as negative sense – for project success. Thus targeted capacity building can be considered as one of the main specific challenges of the cooperation area in view of ensuring a higher level effectiveness of future transnational cooperation.

Content-wise the projects within Priority 4 work as transnational learning platforms for sharing experience in governance models based on a public/private partnership approach (POLYINVEST) and Social Responsibility Management Models (G.S.R. Model). Urban development is tackled from the point of view of integrated urban management for sustainable growth (e.g. ViTo, STATUS, TERRE) and regeneration of brown fields (FATE, ReTIna). Consortia exchange experience on integrated spatial and development strategies for strengthening functional regions as carriers of growth and competitiveness (e.g. DONAUREGIONEN+, DATOURWAY, ADC, ATTRACT SEE, InTourAct). Priority 4 supported also the creation of cultural routes, ensuring compatibility and synergy between cultural heritage conservation and socio-economic growth (ATRIUM, SUSTCULT, RECULTIVATUR, Danube Limes Brand or CMC). The "social dimension" of sustainable development was addressed through sharing data on demographic and migratory processes (MMWD and SEEMIG), as well the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the economic and social life (SILVER CITY, PAIRS).

3.4.2 Achievement of targets

The following tables summarise the indicator data for Priority 4 projects of (all calls) reported for 2014.

Output Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of articles/appearances published in the press and in other media (including online media, TV, radio)	no.	0	2,008	2,634
02. No of press conferences	no.	0	249	259
03. Average of hits per month on the project's website(no.)	no.	0	23,516	140,401
04. No of publications produced (editions, specify: e.g. folder, newsletter, brochure, report, guideline, handbook), No of copies disseminated	no.	0	82,963	97,264
05. No of transnational events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	1,973	1,272
06. No of national events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	3,057	3,124
07. No of regional events implemented, no of participants involved	no.	0	3,700	16,505
08. No of study visits organised, no of participants involved	no.	0	166	163
09. No of studies produced	no.	0	427	307
10. No of guidelines produced	no.	0	122	130
11. No of management plans developed	no.	0	148	92
12. No of joint action plans produced	no.	0	323	264
13. No of databases created or improved	no.	0	83	112
14. No of training events, seminars organised	no.	0	286	317
15. No of participants involved in trainings and seminars	no.	0	5,999	6,896
16. No of individuals that participated in exchange schemes	no.	0	1,722	1,603
17. No of promotion concepts	no.	0	59	64
18. No of promotion actions	no.	0	362	339
19. No of services developed	no.	0	62	88
20. No of small scale infrastructure projects	no.	0	10	6
21. No of person in charge for administration of projects	no.	0	632	841
22. No of project meetings held	no.	0	625	834

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
01. No of permanent information sources / channels in project (e.g. websites, regular publications)	no.	0	8,638	52,969
02. No of individuals reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	971,198	866,455
03. No of administrative actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	7,984	7,183
04. No of private sector actors reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	9,268	9,877
05. No of SME reached directly through dissemination outputs in the co-operation area	no.	0	4,046	2,267
06. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to increase the projects visibility among experts and wider communities, the public (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	580	293
07. No of common positions / agreements formulated	no.	0	58	43
08. No of common methodologies adopted	no.	0	77	55
09. No of strategies adopted at governmental level	no.	0	33	13
10. No of innovative products developed	no.	0	97	59
11. No of regional/local policies and instruments improved or developed	no.	0	214	108
12. No of common standards established (e.g. through new guidelines)	no.	0	100	94
13. No of new tools / instruments developed	no.	0	139	94
14. No of impact studies on environmental issues carried out (e.g. in pre-investment projects)	no.	0	38	12
15. No of pilot actions prepared (first application)	no.	0	176	122
16. No of pilot actions implemented (first application)	no.	0	100	54
17. No permanent exchange programmes established	no.	0	22	4
18. No of staff members with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills)	no.	0	2,617	2,080
19. No of advanced tools and methodologies adopted to improve knowledge management within the partnership (additionally description necessary)	no.	0	34	217
20. No of regions proactively promoted	no.	0	233	145
21. No of common management structures / systems established	no.	0	43	26
22. No of individuals benefiting directly from new / improved services	no.	0	694,954	123,531
23. No of investment proposals developed (if possible	no.	0	94	170

Result Indicator Description	Measurement Unit	Aggregated Indicator Values		
		Base Value	Target Value *Application form*	Cumulated value *Progress Reports*
specify volume of investment)				/volume: EUR 2,896,503 /
24. No of private market reactions achieved (e.g. private activities mobilized)	no.	0	423	299
25. No of investment projects implemented (specify volume of investment)	no.	0	0	0
26. No of infrastructures of common interest improved	no.	0	10	4

4   TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The budget allocated to the Priority Axis 5 (Technical Assistance) is used to ensure the sound basis for the implementation of the programme. Activities financed from the TA budget are related to programme management, implementation, monitoring, control, and evaluation.

4.1   Technical Assistance budget

ERDF TA budget

Technical Assistance budget of the SEE Programme is 16,598,049.00 EUR which is financed by 6% of the ERDF funds of the programme and by national contributions from SEE Member States.

Priority axes	EU Funding (a)	National public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d) = (a) + (b) + (c)	Co-financing rate (e) = (a)/(d)
P5 Technical Assistance	12,448,537	4,149,512	0	16,598,049	0.75

After the accession of Croatia to the EU, the HR allocation was proportionally allocated between the priorities and a 47,040 EUR ERDF contribution was added to the ERDF TA budget.

IPA TA budget

In the "IPA integrated phase", *10%* of the IPA budget of the programme is used to finance Technical Assistance, with a 15% national co-financing rate *according to 7.7.1 of the SEE OP (approved on 28.11.2013).* The Partner States involved in the IPA integrated phase shall provide the 15% national co-financing to the TA budget according to the shares fixed in the Financing Agreements.

Priority axes	IPA Funding (a)	National public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d) = (a) + (b) + (c)	Co-financing rate (e) = (a)/(d)
P5 Technical Assistance	1,650,000	291,176	0	1,941,176	0.85

ENPI TA budget

Out of 2 MEUR ENPI allocation to the program 10% will be used for technical assistance. No national co-financing is foreseen.

Priority axes	ENPI Funding (a)	National public funding (b)	National private funding (c)	Total funding (d) = (a) + (b) + (c)	Co-financing rate (e) = (a)/(d)
P5 Technical Assistance	200,000	0	0	200,000	1.00

4.2   Financial progress

ERDF TA budget

By the end of 2014, the financial implementation of the TA budget was ongoing by the TA beneficiaries. Regarding the core activities (TA projects Core management, MA, CA and AA) the total eligible expenditure paid from TA sources was EUR 9,427,950.39 (ERDF and national contributions), while for the SCP activities EUR 770,999.31 (ERDF and national contributions) was reimbursed.

The following table presents the financial progress of the TA projects by TA beneficiaries until the end of 2014:

TA Project ID	TA Beneficiary/budget lines	Total		
		Planned	Fact	%
SEE-TA/01	Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme	8 969 791,14	8 248 564,69	91,96
SEE-TA/02	Operation of the Managing Authority (MA)	609 668,00	321 140,62	52,67
SEE-TA/03	Establishment and operation of Certifying Authority (CA) in Budapest	208 081,00	36 277,16	17,43
SEE-TA/04	Set-up and activities of the Hungarian South East Europe Contact Point	83 812,45	73 526,94	87,73
SEE-TA/05	Operation of Audit Authority (AA)	898 364,77	472 288,09	52,57
SEE-TA/06	Support for the SEE Contact Point activities in the Republic of Bulgaria for implementation of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme	287 498,00	72 427,35	25,19
SEE-TA/07	Technical assistance activities of the Greek South East Europe Contact Point	270 730,00	28 617,88	10,57
SEE-TA/08	Set-up and activities of the Italian South East Europe Contact Point	428 710,00	302 794,13	70,63
SEE-TA/09	Set-up and activities of the Romanian South East Europe Contact Point	697 079,00	276 087,03	39,61
SEE-TA/10	Set-up and activities of the Slovak South East Europe Contact Point	98 557,00	54 648,92	55,45
SEE-TA/11	Set-up and activities of the Slovenian South East Europe Contact Point	36 424,00	36 424,00	100,00
SEE-TA/20	Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SZPO)	3 721 131,42	276 152,89	7,42
SEE-TA/22	Set-up and activities of the Hungarian South East Europe Contact Point (SZPO)	127 891,55	0,00	0,00
TOTAL ERDF TA projects		**16 437 738,33**	**10 198 949,70**	**62,05%**

IPA TA budget

TA expenditure is eligible for the management of the TA core activities from the approval date of the OP (28.11.2013). The IPA TA expenditure for core management had been pre-financed by the TA beneficiary in 2011 and in 2012.

The following table presents the financial progress of the IPA TA projects by TA beneficiaries until the end of 2014:

TA	TA Beneficiary/budget lines	Total

Project ID		Planned	Fact	%
SEE-TA/12	Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme - IPA TA budget	399 788,13	337 280,99	84,36
SEE-TA/13	Operation of the Managing Authority (MA) - IPA TA budget	144 000,00	0,00	0,00
SEE-TA/14	Support to the SEE Contact Point activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for implementation of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme	139 234,00	26 475,40	19,02
SEE-TA/15	Implementation of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme in the Republic of Croatia (IPA integrated phase) - Support to the SEE Contact Point activities	143 069,00	49 994,51	34,94
SEE-TA/16	Support to the implementation of the transnational programme in Montenegro	105 931,00	3 332,84	3,15
SEE-TA/17	Operation of Audit Authority (AA) - IPA TA budget	180 741,00	0,00	0,00
SEE-TA/18	Technical Assistance concerning the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the ERDF Transnational Programme 'South-East Europe' (SEE) during the IPA integrated phase	171 593,00	0,00	0,00
SEE-TA/21	Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme - IPA TA budget (SZPO)	407 065,34	18 603,56	4,57
TOTAL IPA TA projects		**1 691 421,47**	**435 687,30**	**25,76%**

ENPI TA budget

The ENPI TA expenditure for core management had been pre-financed by the TA beneficiary in 2013. All TA expenditure incurred in 2013 was validated and reimbursed in 2014.

4.3   Technical Assistance financial management procedures

Financial management of the TA budget and activities, as well as the eligibility rules of the TA expenditures are set out in the TA Manual of the Programme. The TA Manual was developed in 2007 and approved by the Monitoring Committee 18.03.2008; its amendments were approved by the MC 17.07.2008 and 07.07.2009. In 2011, further amendment of the TA Manual was approved by the MC (04.03.2011) in order to create separate TA project for the Audit Authority taking out the budget for audit activities from the TA project Core management. In 2012 further amendment of the TA Manual was necessary in order to include the eligibility rules for the IPA TA budget and to set the TA management rules for the IPA TA projects in line with the ERDF TA management principles. The TA Manual was approved by the MC on 24.10.2012.

The TA Manual was amended on 27.05.2013, 06.05.2014 and 21.10.2014 to give references to the 3 new programmes explicitly in the "eligibility of expenditure" section of the Manual and to revise the Annex related to TA budget.

The main principles of the TA financial management procedures are agreed in the approved TA Manual, while the detailed procedures relevant for each programme management body involved in (e.g. verification of application for reimbursements, approval of request of funds, reimbursement of EU and national contributions) are described in the internal Procedures Manual (approved in 2009, amended in 2012 and 2014).

According to 7.7.2 of the Operational Programme, activities covered by Technical Assistance are financed using the project management approach. The following types of TA projects developed from the ERDF, IPA and ENPI TA budgets:

I.   TA projects for core activities:

1. TA project for core activities (activities of the JTS, joint horizontal tasks):
   - o ERDF TA project for core management
   - o IPA TA project for core management
   - o ENPI TA project for core management
2. TA project for the Managing Authority (activities of the MA)
   - o ERDF TA project for the MA
   - o IPA TA project for the MA
   - o ENPI TA project for the MA
3. TA project for the Certifying Authority (activities of the CA)
   - o ERDF TA project for the CA
4. TA project for the Audit Authority (audit tasks)
   - o ERDF TA project for the AA
   - o IPA TA project for the AA

II. **TA projects prepared by SCPs** (activities of the SCPs, supervision of control activities by the responsible body for control)
   a. TA projects of SCPs in Member States
   b. TA projects of SCPs in IPA Partner States

The selection and contracting procedure are included in the TA Manual.

Management of ERDF TA projects

The TA project for the core activities, the TA project for the MA and the TA projects of the SCPs (except Austria) were approved by the Monitoring Committee in 2008, split of the core management TA project into 2 projects, the core management and TA project for the Certifying Authority was approved in 2009. The further split of the core management TA project into 2 projects, the core management and TA project for the Audit Authority was approved in 2011.

TA agreement template was approved in 2009 by the MA, after elaboration and discussion process between the Member States and the MA/JTS. The signature of the TA Agreements had been started in 2009. By the end of 2010, the TA Agreements were signed with the Contact Points of Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia and signature procedure was finalized at the beginning of 2011 with Romania as well. After signature of the TA Agreements, the TA projects are registered into the Monitoring and Information System (IMIS 2007-2013) of the Programme, which allows the monitoring of the TA projects and reimbursement of the ERDF and national contributions to the TA beneficiaries.

The amendments of SEE-TA/01 and SEE-TA/04 projects were initiated due to the transfer of the hosting organisation of the SEE JTS, as well as the task of the Hungarian South East Europe Contact Point (SCP HU) from VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd to Széchenyi Programoffice Consulting and Service Non-profit Limited Liability Company (SZPO):

The TA projects in which VÁTI was the TA beneficiary ended by 30 June 2014. The budget is allocated according to the real spending until that date. The TA projects in which SZPO is the TA beneficiary started on 1st July 2014 and ends by 31 December 2015. The remaining budgets of the original TA projects are allocated to the new TA projects.

The closure of the TA projects in which VÁTI was the TA beneficiary is needed for legal reasons, since VÁTI ceased by 30th June 2014.

Management of IPA TA projects

By the approval of the amendment to the Operational Programme (24.03.2011), the TA from IPA contribution is also available. IPA TA projects for core activities and for the MA have been approved by the MC by written procedure on 24.06.2011.

The overall IPA TA budget breakdown and the IPA TA projects budgets were approved by the MC by written procedure on 02.08.2011. On the basis of that decision, the TA project for Core management had been revised according to the budget lines approved by the MC on 24.10.2012 and the TA projects for IPA SCPs had been developed accordingly as well.

In 2013 the IPA TA project plans for SCPs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro had been approved. In 2014 the IPA TA project plans for following Partner States were approved:

- o The IPA TA project plans for SCPs:
  - TA project plan SCP Serbia
  - TA project plan SCP Albania

- o The TA Agreement with the 1 SCP TA beneficiary was concluded as well in 2014:
  - SEE-TA/18 (SCP Serbia) 25.08.2014

The amendment of Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme – IPA TA budget projects were initiated due to the transfer of the hosting organisation of the SEE JTS from VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd to Széchenyi Programoffice Consulting and Service Non-profit Limited Liability Company (SZPO).

The TA projects in which VÁTI was the TA beneficiary ended by 30 June 2014. The budget is allocated according to the real spending until that date. The TA project in which SZPO is the TA beneficiary started on 1st July 2014 and ends by 31 December 2015. The remaining budgets of the original TA projects are allocated to the new TA project.

Management of ENPI TA projects

The overall ENPI TA budget breakdown was approved by the MC at the MC meeting in Skopje on 12-13 September 2011. On the basis of that decision, the ENPI TA projects had been developed according to the budget lines approved by the MC.

The ENPI TA management documents, i.e. the Chapter on Management of ENPI Technical Assistance budget" to the SEE TA Manual and the following TA projects had been approved on 11.02.2013:

- o ENPI TA project for core management
- o ENPI TA project for the MA

The amendment of Core Management of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme – ENPI TA budget project was initiated due to the transfer of the hosting organisation of the SEE JTS from VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd to Széchenyi Programoffice Consulting and Service Non-profit Limited Liability Company (SZPO).

The TA project in which VÁTI was the TA beneficiary ended by 30 June 2014. The budget is allocated according to the real spending until that date. The TA project in which SZPO is the TA beneficiary started on 1st July 2014 and ends by 31 December 2015. The remaining budgets of the original TA project is allocated to the new TA project.

4.4 Technical Assistance activities

4.4.1 Set-up and operation of programme management structures

In 2014 institutional changes took place both in case of the Managing Authority, as well as the JTS.

<u>Managing Authority</u>

Based on the Hungarian Government Decree No. 475/2013. (XII. 17.) the National Development Agency (Hungary) ceased to exist with 31 December 2013. The duties, tasks and responsibilities of being the designated Managing Authority of the SEE Programme were taken over by the Prime Minister's Office according to the Hungarian Government Decision No. 27/2014. (II.7.).

<u>Joint Technical Secretariat</u>

According to the Government Decision 1362/2014 (VI.30.), the duties, tasks and responsibilities of VÁTI Hungarian Nonprofit Limited Liability Company for Regional Development and Town Planning, in relation to being the host institution of the Joint Technical Secretariat was taken over by the Széchenyi Programoffice Consulting and Service Non-profit Limited Liability Company from 01.07.2014.

As a consequence of these institutional changes the duties, functions and procedures of the MA and JTS did not change, but the modification of the affected TA projects and other affected programme documents were necessary to be modified, changing the names of the host institutions.

In 2014 there were also some personal changes at the MA, as from 1 July Mr Zsigmond Perényi, Deputy State Secretary was nominated to be the Head of MA, replacing Mr Balázs Simó, Head of Department.

The number (15) and persons of the JTS staff did not change in 2014. Mr Gusztáv Csomor, the Acting Head of JTS was selected for the position of the Head of JTS in January 2014 through an open recruitment procedure initiated by the MA following the resignation of Mr Ivan Curzolo from the position of Head of JTS with the date of 31 October 2013.

No other significant changes in the control and management system of the Programme took place in 2014.

4.4.2 Programme management activities of the Joint Technical Secretariat

	Description	Tasks fulfilled
1	Programme level tasks	- 4th Modification of the Operational Programme prepared and submitted to EC - Preparation of annual Communication Plan and its implementation - Information and publicity activities (see details in chapter 5)
2	Secretariat tasks for the Monitoring Committee	- Organisation of two Monitoring Committee meetings - Preparation of Annual Report 2013 for the EC - Preparation and coordination of decision making through MC written procedures

3	Administrative management of external expertise services	- Preparation of tenders for external expertise
		- Concluding contracts with external experts
		  ▪ supporting the preparation of the Operational Programme Adriatic-Ionian 2014-2020;
		  ▪ Ex-ante evaluation and strategic environmental assessment

		of the Adriatic-Ionian Operational Programme 2014–2020
		▪ Ex-ante evaluation and strategic environmental assessment of the Danube Operational Programme 2014–2020 ▪ Organisation of the SEE Annual conference
4	Management of TA budget	- TA Core Budget planning for 2014 - TA procurement plan for 2014 - Verification and approval of TA PR & AfR for SCPs and for MA, CA and AA - Modification of TA projects
5	Monitoring	- JTS staff involved in the maintenance (collecting errors and further development needs) of the IMIS 2007-2013 Monitoring and Information system - Data management in the monitoring system
6	Project generation and assessment	- In 2014 there were no more project generation and assessment tasks, as the available funding sources have already been allocated in previous years
7	Project implementation	- Verification of Progress reports and applications for reimbursement by the JTS for the 2nd , 3rd and 4th call projects - Project monitoring visits - Project modifications – support to LPs, preparation of Addenda - Project closures for the 2nd call projects carried out in 2014
9	Support and co-ordinate the contact points in their activities	- JTS was in regular contact with the Contact Points (SCPs) including communication, program and project management issues, as well as contributing to national events
10	Manage the joint projects/partner search database	- The partner search tool was not in use in 2014 as no new calls for proposals were planned - The Partner search database of approved projects, as well as the Output Library on the program website and has been continuously managed by the JTS
11	Prepare other documents required by the European Commission or the Monitoring Committee	- No such specific request was raised towards the JTS in 2014
12	Organizing the working group meetings of the controllers	- The JTS kept regular contact and communication with the national control bodies of the Partner States - No working group meeting was necessary in 2014
13	Support the Audit Authority and the Group of Auditors in their activities	- The JTS cooperated with the AA during the annual system audit of 2013 as well as contributed to the GoA meeting
14	Supporting the successor programmes (Adriatic-Ionian, Balkan-Mediterranean, Danube)	- The JTS regularly participated at and contributed to the work of the Task Force / Programming Committees of the successor programmes of period 2014-2020

Joint horizontal tasks delegated by the MA to the VÁTI/SZPO horizontal units as well as tasks supporting the JTS had been fulfilled as follows:

	Description	Tasks fulfilled
1	Management of the Monitoring and Information System	- Coordination of the maintenance and further development of the IMIS 2007-2013 - Coordination of testing the system - Supporting users - Keeping contact with the developers
2	Operating the Financial Transfer Unit	- Management of payments to the LPs
3	Quality control of key documents	- Not relevant in 2014
4	Coordination of the preparation of Procedures Manuals, audit trails	- Coordination of the system audits 2013 and the sample check on operations 2014 - Modification of Procedure Manual in relation to the institutional changes
5	Services in TA financial management	- Coordination of annual Financial Agreement between MA and JTS - Coordination of the JTS TA budget plan and TA procurement plan

5   INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES

5.1   Main achievements and good practices

a.   Planning and reporting

The annual communication plan was endorsed by the Monitoring Committee members at their meeting in Tirana on 9[h] April 2014. The plan was successfully implemented without major amendments.

b.   Information activities at national level

The SCPs have been asked to provide a TA progress report containing information about the communication activities, the assistance to project implementation as well as planned communication activities. The reports are being submitted via the Front Office surface of the IMIS 2007-2013.

Events organized at national level as reported by the SCPs:

Events organised at national level	Date and place of event	Number of participants	Description
Workshop for journalists	25 February 2014, Belgrade, Serbia	35	Serbian National Contact Point for the SEE programme organised this event at the Serbian Office for European Integration. The aim was to explain transnational cooperation opportunities. The introductory speech was delivered by the Serbian Minister for EU Integration. An example of successful Serbian involvement in SEE was presented by the partners of DaHar project supporting Danube inland harbour development.
Transnational cooperation conference	13-14 March 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia	60	The event promoted achievements of Slovakian partners made possible by participation in transnational cooperation in Central Europe and SEE programmes 2007-2013. The main target group were current and future beneficiaries from Slovakia.
Transnational programmes conference	13-15 April 2014, Budva, Montenegro	130	The conference highlighted lessons learnt by Montenegrin partners in the MED and SEE programmes 2007-2013. There was a session on results and possibilities for capitalising these through the new programmes 2014-2020. SEE JTS representative gave a presentation on non-EU country involvement in SEE programme.
Open Doors Day	31 May 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia	*Not accounted for*	The event welcomed the public at the Slovak Ministry of Environment. SEE publications were disseminated during the day.

Events organised at national level	Date and place of event	Number of participants	Description
European Cooperation Day	19 September 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro	150	The Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration organised a project fair to show achievements in cross-border and transnational programmes.
European Cooperation Day	26 September 2014, Belgrade, Serbia	150	The Fourth National Conference on trans-border cooperation took stock of the benefits EU cooperation brought to Serbian partners.
Cooperation across borders means co-creating Europe (Über Grenzen kooperieren heißt Europa mitgestalten)	30 September 2014, Vienna, Austria	200	The aim of this event was to present the continuity of transnational cooperation in the Central Europe, Alpine Space and the Danube. Cooperation experience in the SEE programme was promoted as a stepping block for further cooperation in the Danube region. The target group was current and future project implementers.
Workshop on reporting for ENPI partners	15 October 2014, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova	25	The workshop aimed at helping Moldovan partners in the specific SEE ENPI call in the upcoming reporting tasks. SEE JTS explained the structure and requirements for content of the reports. Individual consultations were held with partners in the following projects; STATUS, APP4INNO, SENSOR, CO-WANDA and ClusterPoliSEE.
National conference on trans-border cooperation 2007-2013 and Moldovan participation	30 October – 1 November 2014, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova	100	The event was divided into several sessions: evaluation of past experiences and expectations for the future; thematic focus of running projects with MD participation; 2014-2020 trans-border cooperation perspectives; ENI CBC regulation and new rules 2014-2020. SEE JTS presented the involvement of MD partners in SEE projects and gave tips for the future. Back-to-back with the event individual consultations were held MD partners in SEE Technology and TRANSDANUBE projects.

        c. SEE website

The current look of the SEE website reflects the implementation phase of the programme and thus puts in focus programme and project achievements. The section "Achievements" was continuously updated throughout 2014. In particular, the subsection "Capitalisation strategy" promoted the outcomes of the initiative per thematic pole. In addition, the Outputs Library grew to more than 800 project output entries. A third subsection was added to host the photo competition results.

A big space on the main page is dedicated to the archive of presentations, videos and photos from all SEE annual conferences (from 2009 to 2014). The archive is accessible through the banner of the last annual event.

Further to that three specific subpages, accessible from the main page, inform about the preparation of the new programmes in SEE cooperation space, i.e. ADRION, Balkan-Mediterranean, and Danube.

Overall the website was regularly updated to promote the multiple final project events that took place in 2014, as well as projects' most recent achievements.

d. Publications, Promotional materials, Media

- Design and publication of the 4th call projects' catalogue (published in 450 copies).
- In 2014 SEE programme and projects were mentioned in 61 articles in various media outlets in southeast Europe.
- Production of promotional materials for the annual conference incl. leaflet on SEE capitalisation results (340 pieces), field trip passport (340 pieces), 50 high-resolution photo panels for annual conference exhibition and giveaways.

- A video recording of the SEE Annual Event 2014 is available on the conference website: http://www.seeconference2012.net/previous/seeconference2014.net/.
- Four new issues of the SEE Newsletter were released in 2014. They served to promote the annual event and joint communication training; update stakeholders on the progress of designing the three new programmes, launch the SEE photo competition, and cover SEE participation in the third Danube forum and the OPEN DAYS 2014. The last newsletter reached an audience of 8,500 regional stakeholders.
- The SEE Programme continued cooperating in the Harmonised Branding Initiative launched by INTERACT for the design of a common ETC 2014-2020 visual identity.
- The SEE Youtube channel reached a population of 35 project videos and 6 video tracks from SEE annual events: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ6dX5-ixPLMvepsfP2rTjg/videos. In total around 4,000 people have viewed the video material on SEE project results compiled there.
- Social media will be the main communication tool in the last year of programme implementation. So far SEE LinkedIn page has reached a popularity of ca. 900 followers: hu.linkedin.com/pub/south-east-europe-programme/77/892/440/en. SEE Twitter account has around 400 followers: https://twitter.com/SEE_Programme.

e. Internal communication

In 2014 SEE JTS supported SCPs in several of their national dissemination events by sending programme publications and delivering presentations on SEE experiences. A special case was the ENPI reporting workshop for Moldovan partners. Regular contact is maintained with the SCPs during the reporting periods, as well. At the end of the year SCPs were consulted about their needs in terms of support for further dissemination events in 2015. Feedback helped in drafting the SEE communication plan and resources in the final year of programme implementation.

f. Main events organised

Name of event	Description	Date and place
SEE-MED Joint Communication Training	95 participants (46 representing SEE projects) Clays Communication experts were subcontracted to help with designing the content of the event, as well as with facilitation. The	2-3 June 2014, Bled, Slovenia

	training topics were tailored to participants' needs, which were consulted at an earlier stage. The aim of the training was to equip project communicators with the tools and skills needed for disseminating results in the final phase of project implementation. The training offered several plenary sessions (open for all) and workshops (prior registration required). Participants learnt about adapting project communication strategy to the final implementation stage, making efficient use of social media, getting the most out of final events, story-telling and feeding project results into EU policies. All sessions included practical exercises and hands-on experiences. SEE JTS team moderated the workshop on story-telling. A thematic session gave an opportunity to all projects – MED and SEE supported – to exchange on stakeholder outreach per topic, e.g. nature protection, SME support.	
SEE Valuable Achievements for the Future (SEE Annual event)	340 participants The last SEE annual event put programme and project achievements in the spotlight. The first day of the event was packed-full of examples of the benefits SEE projects brought to the programme area. In a session on achievements several projects presented the added value of transnational cooperation: EVAL-INNO, SEEMIG, FORSEE, MILD HOME, NEWADA Duo, and SAGITTARIUS. They used story-telling techniques, video tools, and interviews with end-beneficiaries to give a 'feel' of project results. An interview-style discussion on SEE Capitalisation strategy results revealed how projects understood and benefitted from capitalisation activities within the 10 out of the 14 thematic poles. Event participants could choose amongst 7 field trips to project sites in and around Ljubljana. Each site prepared an interactive activity to show transnational cooperation in action (in some cases several projects collaborated). SEE projects involved in the trips were: SEERISK, GeoSEE, ROSEE, RAIL4SEE, SEE-ITS, ADB multiplatform, GIFT, Sy_CULTour, Wide the SEE, SEE TV-Web. A special field trip passport was given to each participant as a reminder of the trip experiences. The field trips commemorated the European Cooperation Day with special posters. The second day of the event focused on future programmes in the SEE cooperation space: ADRION, Balkan-Mediterranean, and Danube. Their managing authorities presented the thematic and geographic scope of these programmes. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session. A special space of the event was dedicated to the 50 best contestants in SEE photo competition. Panels with the best photos (votes by SEE website users) representing SEE cooperation made a good meeting place for the breaks. The top three entries received special prizes	24-25 September 2014, Ljubljana, Slovenia

	during the event. In addition, a video room also gave the opportunity to promote SEE achievements by screening SEE project video material. All related presentations and videos are available here: http://www.seeconference2012.net/previous/seeconference2014.net/	

5.2 Results of the information and publicity measures

SEE annual event

The event attracted 340 participants who represented local, regional and national authorities from SEE countries, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, associations of local development actors, non-governmental organisations, etc. The overall satisfaction rate with the plenary sessions was 4.34 (ref. lowest 1 to highest 5). The SEE photo exhibition and video room were rated at 4.31. As a matter of fact SEE photo competition collected 104 photos submitted by 37 projects. After an online voting only the 50 best photos were exhibited during the annual conference.

In general, on the SEE 2014 annual event participants appreciated the most the field trips – 4.51. Overall ca. 74% said the event met their expectations.

SEE/MED joint communication training

This is the second joint communication event that SEE organises. Previously SEE collaborated also with the Central Europe (2007-2013) programme. The 2014 training had the specific aim to support projects in better communicating their results through different tools, e.g. social media, final conferences, story-telling. The topic of reaching EU stakeholders was also tackled. In total 95 project implementers took part in the two-day training event in Bled. Most of them assessed the overall effectiveness of the event as very good (68%) or excellent (25.5%).

SEE JTS team consisted of the communication manager and the quality assurance manager. They prepared and co-moderated the story-telling workshop. This was the highest rated workshop from all 5 workshops available. 50% of participants thought it was an excellent session and 38.5% rated it as very good.

SEE programme website

 The interest in the website updates in 2014 attracted on average 12,763 monthly unique visitors.

SEE newsletters

Each of the 4 issues of the SEE newsletter in 2014 was circulated to 8,000 recipients.

SEE YouTube Channel

This media outlet was only used effectively since 2013. This is when most SEE projects started creating videos to show their achievements. By the end of 2014 in total 35 project and 6 programme

videos were upload into the SEE YouTube Channel. The video material has been viewed by 4,000 people.

SEE LinkedIn page

The page is a good platform for quick information dissemination. Throughout 2014 SEE LinkedIn page attracted over 900 followers.

SEE Twitter account

This media outlet was not used very much for interaction with stakeholders. It was not initially part of the SEE communication plan. Still by the end of 2014 there were around 400 followers of the SEE Twitter account.

3rd Danube Forum

On 26 and 27 June 2014 the European Commission and the City of Vienna hosted the 3rd Annual forum for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region under the slogan "We grow together – together we grow". SEE programme was present in the exhibition area with a stand promoting 20 SEE projects, whose activities contribute to implementing the strategy's Action Plan. On the 27 June the Head of SEE JTS presented SEE experiences in the workshop entitled 'Strengthening the region' (part of Danube Cosmos session, Ready for Action slot 2). In total, more than 1,000 people attended the forum representing science, business, policymakers and implementers, and non-governmental organisations.

6   ANNEXES

6.1   ANNEX I: CONTRIBUTION TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DANUBE STRATEGY

In its meeting held in Luxembourg on 13 April 2011, the General Affairs Council approved the conclusions about the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) developed by the Hungarian Presidency in recent months. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure the sustainability and coherence of the development of the Danube Region.

Already in its preparation phase the SEE Programme was considered as a key instrument for implementing the EUSDR. Several SEE projects have been recognised for their contributions to the strategy priorities in the EUSDR Action Plan:

Priority Area 1 To improve mobility and multimodality

✓ **WANDA** and its follow-up **Co-WANDA** contribute to improving the environmental performance of the Danube fleet;

✓ **NEWADA** and its follow-up **NEWADA duo** are examples for cooperation aiming to improve the comprehensive waterway management of the Danube;

✓ **NELI** and its follow-up **HINT** are recognised for their investment in education and jobs in the Danube navigation sector;

Priority Area 4 To restore and maintain the quality of waters

✓   **TICAD** exemplifies the strengthening of cooperation at sub-basin level, i.e. Tisza River;

Priority Area 5 To manage environmental risks

✓ **DANUBE FLOODRISK** contributes to developing a single overarching floods management plan at basin level;

✓ **MONITOR II** strengthens operational cooperation among emergency response authorities in the Danube countries;

✓ **CC-WaterS** contributes to developing spatial planning activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods;

Priority Area 6 To preserve biodiversity, landscapes, and the quality of air and soils

✓ **DANUBEPARKS** and its follow-up **DANUBEPARKS Step 2.0** support the effective management of NATURA 2000 sites;

Apart from the above "flagship" initiatives SEE programme contributes to the EUSDR by active participation in the strategy communication. In 2012, 2013 and 2014 SEE programme was involved in:

❑ A debate on the support to macro regional strategies through ETC 2014-2020 in the framework of the SEE 2014+ TF meetings in Chisinau and Bologna in 2012.

❑ 1st and 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Regensburg, Germany, 27-28 November 2012 and in Bucharest, Romania 28-29 October 2013.

❑ An exhibition organised in the framework of the 2nd Annual Forum for the EUSDR where 18 SEE projects strongly linked to the themes of the strategy promoted their relevant achievements.

❑ 3rd Annual Forum for the EUSDR in Vienna – co-organising a workshop and taking part in exhibition.

6.2   Annex II - COMPLEMENTARITIES WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS

6.2.1   Complementarities with other transnational and multilateral cross-border cooperation programmes active in the South East and Central Europe Area in the 2007-2013 period

a. Geographic complementarities

The SEE Programme area has geographic complementarities with other 3 transnational Programmes (Central Europe Programme – 6 countries in common, Mediterranean Programme – 7 countries in common (Albania is participating since 2009 and Bosnia and Herzegovina is participating since 2008), and Alpine Space Programme – 3 countries in common). Furthermore the SEE Programme has geographic complementarities with CBC programmes - IPA Adriatic CBC Programme (9 countries in common; Serbia is granted a phase-out participation until 2012 included) and Black Sea – a CBC sea basin programme under ENPI (5 countries – regions only - in common).

Participating countries	Transnational programmes				IPA CBC programme	ENPI CBC programme
	South East Europe	Central	Mediterranean	Alpine	Adriatic	Black Sea
Albania	x	-	x	-	X Fier, Durrës, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tiranë and Vlorë	-
Austria	x	x	-	x	-	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	x	-	x	-	X Bileća, Čapljina, Čitluk, Gacko, Grude, Jablanica, Konjic, Kupres, Livno, Ljubinje, Ljubuški, Mostar, Neum, Nevesinje, Posušje, Prozor/Rama, Ravno, Široki Brijeg, Stolac, Berkovići, Tomislavgrad, Trebinje and Istočni Mostar	-
Bulgaria	x	-	-	-	-	X Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen
Croatia			x		X Dubrovačko-neretvanska, Splitsko-dalmatinska Šibensko-kninska, Zadarska, Ličko senjska Primorsko-goranska, Istarska,; Karlovačka	

				County– 20%	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	x	-	-	-	x	-
Greece	x	-	x	-	x Corfu and Thesprotia	x (Central and Eastern Macedonia–Thrace)
Hungary	x	x	-	-	-	-
Italy	x Lombardia, Bolzano, Trento, Emilia Romagna, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, , Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise, Puglia Basilicata, Veneto,	x Lombardia, Bolzano, Trento, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto	x Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Umbria, Piedmonte, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany, Veneto.	X	X Pescara, Teramo, Chieti (Abruzzo), Ferrara, Forlì-Cesena, Rimini, Ravenna (Emilia Romagna), Trieste, Gorizia, Udine (Friuli Venezia Giulia), Pesaro-Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Ascoli Piceno (Marche), Campobasso (Molise), Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce (Puglia), Venezia, Rovigo, Padova (Veneto)	-
Republic of Moldova	x			-		x
Montenegro			x	-	X Bar, Budva, Cetinje, Danilovgrad, Herceg Novi, Kotor, Nikšić, Podgorica, Tivat and Ulcinj	
Romania				-		X South-East Region
Serbia	x			-	X	
Slovenia	x	x	x	X	X Obalno-kraška	
Slovakia	x	x	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	x Cjermovestka Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast and Odessa Oblast	x Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattia		-		X Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporoshye, Donetsk, Republica Crimeea, Sevastopol

Along with IPA CBC Adriatic, geographic complementarities are also included in the following **bilateral IPA CBC programmes with EU member states** (the NUTS level III areas along the borders): Slovenia-Croatia, Hungary-Croatia, Hungary-Serbia, Romania-Serbia, Bulgaria-Serbia, Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece-the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece-Albania.

	Bulgaria	Greece	Hungary	Romania	Slovenia
Albania	-	**Greece**: Kerkira, Thesprotia, Ioannina, Kastoria, Grevena and Florina **Albania:** Vlorë, Gjirokastër and Korçë	-	-	-
Croatia	-	-	**Hungary**: Zala, Somogy and Baranya **Croatia**: Međimurska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Virovitičko-podravska and Osječko-baranjska, 20%- Varaždinska, Bjelovarsko-bilogorska, Požeško-slavonska and Vukovarsko-srijemska county	-	**Slovenia**: Pomurska, Podravska, Savinjska, Spodnjeposavska, Jugovzhodna Slovenija, Notranjsko-kraška, Obalnokraška, Osrednjeslovenska (20%) **Croatia**: Međimurska, Varaždinska, Krapinsko -zagorska, Zagrebačka, Karlovačka, Primorsko-goranska, Istarska County, City of Zagreb (20%)
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**Bulgaria**: Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil district, **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**: South East, North East East Region	**Greece**: Florina, Pella, Kilkis and Serres, 20%: Thessaloniki **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**: Pelagonia, Vardar and Southeast	-	-	-
Serbia	**Bulgaria**: Vidina,Montana, Sofia, Pernik, Kyustendil, Sofia-city district **Serbia**: Bor,Zajecar, Nisava, Pirot, Jablanica, Pcinja district	-	**Hungary**: Csongrád, Bács-Kiskun **Serbia**: West Bačka, North Bačka, North Banat, South Bačka , Middle Banat , 20%: South Banat, Srem	**Romania**: Timiş County, Caraş-Severin County, Mehedinţi Conty **Serbia**: Severno-Banatski,Srednje-Banatski, Južno-Banatski,Braničevski, Borski Distric	-

b. Financial complementarities

Funds available	Transnational programmes				IPA CBC programme	ENPI CBC programme
	South East Europe	**Central**	**Mediterranean**	**Alpine**	**Adriatic**	**Black Sea**
Overall (including national financing)	245 MEUR	298 MEUR	256 MEUR	130 MEUR	106 MEUR	18 MEUR
ERDF / EU member states	x	x	x	x	-	-
IPA	x	-	x	-	x	x
ENPI	-	-	-	-	-	x

IPA CBC bilateral programs with EU member states:

		Bulgaria	**Greece**	**Hungary**	**Romania**	**Slovenia**
IPA Funds available Overall (including national financing)	**Albania**		11,320,000 EUR ERDF[5] 10,825,000 EUR IPA			
	Croatia			24,304,482 EUR		18,499,555 EUR
	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		7,391,288 EUR ERDF[6] 4,226,199 EUR IPA			
	Serbia	13,589,746 EUR		21,709,165 EUR	22,304,004 EUR	

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5 Greece-Albania CBC programme is implemented in transitional approach

6 Greece-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia programme is implemented in transitional approach

c. Thematic complementarities

Transnational programmes				IPA CBC programme	ENPI CBC programme
South East Europe The South East Europe Programme helps to promote better integration between the Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries and neighbouring countries	**Central Europe** Encourages cooperation among the countries of Central Europe to improve innovation, accessibility and the environment and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of their cities and regions	**Mediterranean** MED promotes transnational partnerships on the Northern part of the Mediterranean	**Alpine** supports transnational projects in the Alpine area fostering territorial development and cohesion	**Adriatic** Strengthening sustainable development capabilities of the Adriatic Region through a concerted strategy of action between the partners of the eligible territories	**Black Sea** aims to contribute to: "a stronger and sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin
Priority Axis 1: Facilitation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship AoI 1.1: Develop technology and innovation networks in specific fields AoI 1.2: Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship AoI 1.3: Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation	Priority 1: Facilitating innovation across Central Europe enhancing the framework for innovation; establishing the capacity to diffuse and apply innovation; fostering knowledge development.	Axe 1: Strengthening innovation capacities Objective1.1: Dissemination of innovative technologies and know-how. Objective1.2: Strengthening strategic cooperation between economic development actors and public authorities	Priority 1: Competitiveness and Attractiveness	Priority 1 Economic, Social and Institutional Cooperation.	Promoting economic and social development in the border areas

Priority Axis 2: Protection and Improvement of the Environment AoI 2.1: Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention AoI 2.2: Improve prevention of environmental risks AoI 2.3: Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas AoI 2.4: Promote energy and resource efficiency	Priority 2: Improving accessibility to, and within, Central Europe improving Central Europe's interconnectivity; developing multi-modal logistics cooperation; promoting sustainable and safe mobility; promoting information and communication technology, as well as alternative solutions for enhancing access.	Axe 2: Environmental protection and promotion of a sustainable territorial development Objective 2.1: Protection and enhancement of natural resources and cultural heritage Objective2.2: Promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency improvement. Objective 2.3: Maritime risks prevention and strengthening of maritime safety. Objective 2.4: Prevention and fight against natural risks	Priority 2: Accessibility and Connectivity	Priority 2 Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention.	Working together to address common challenge
Priority Axis 3: Improvement of the Accessibility AoI 3.1: Improve co-ordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks AoI 3.2: Develop strategies to tackle the "digital divide" AoI 3.3: Improve framework conditions for multi-modal platforms	Priority 3: Using our environment responsibly developing a high-quality environment by managing and protecting natural resources and heritage; reducing the risks and impacts of natural and man-made hazards; supporting renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency; supporting environmentally friendly technologies and activities.	Axe 3 : Improvement of mobility and of territorial accessibility Objective 3.1: Improvement of maritime accessibility and of transit capacities through multimodality and intermodality Objective 3.2: Support to the use of information technologies for a better accessibility and territorial cooperation.	Priority 3: Environment and Risk Prevention	Priority 3 Accessibility and Networks	Promoting local, people-to-people cooperation
Priority Axis 4: Development of Transnational Synergies for Sustainable Growth Areas; AoI 4.1: Tackling crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements; AoI 4.2: Promoting a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas; AoI 4.3: Promoting the use of cultural values for development.	Priority 4: Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and regions; developing polycentric settlement structures and territorial cooperation; addressing the territorial effects of demographic and social change; capitalising on cultural resources, to make cities and regions more attractive.	Axe 4 : Promotion of a polycentric and integrated development of the Med space Objective 4.1: Coordination of development policies and improvement of territorial governance. Objective 4.2: Strengthening of identity and enhancement of cultural resources for a better integration of the Med space.	Priority 4 – Technical Assistance	Priority 4 – Technical Assistance	-

IPA CBC bilateral programs with EU member states:

Cross-border cooperation is essentially about "filling the gaps". It does so through agreed cross-border 'analysis and response' strategies, formulated in each of the cross-border programmes

	Bulgaria	Greece	Hungary	Romania	Slovenia
Albania		Priority 1: Enhancement of Cross-border Economic Development Priority 2: Promotion and Development of the Environment and Natural and Cultural Resources Priority 3: Technical Assistance			
Croatia			Priority 1: Sustainable environment and tourism Priority 2: Co-operative economy and cross-community human resources development Priority 3: Technical Assistance		Priority 1 – Economic and social development Priority 2 – Sustainable management of natural resources Priority 3: Technical assistance
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Priority 1: Economic development and social cohesion Priority 2: Improvement of the quality of life Priority 3: Technical assistance	Priority 1: Enhancement of cross-border economic development Priority 2: Enhance the environmental resources and cultural heritage of the programme area Priority 3: Technical Assistance			
Serbia	Priority 1: Development of small-scale infrastructure. Priority 2: Enhancing capacity for joint planning, problem solving and development. Priority 3: Technical assistance		Priority 1: Infrastructure and environment Priority 2: Economy, education and culture Priority 3: Technical assistance	Priority 1: Economic and social development Priority 2: Environment and emergency prevention Priority 3: Promoting 'people to people' exchanges Priority 4: Technical assistance	

d. Complementarities at project level

The SEE Programme is actively cooperating with the other transnational programmes in order to avoid projects overlapping and repeating.

6.2.2 Complementarities with other donors in the SEE area

The South East Europe is a large area in which many donors are active, through a wide range of programmes. There are numerous opportunities which can be derived from the potential synergies and the programme is currently developing its regional and thematic contacts in order to avoid overlaps, to increase collaboration, enhance synergies and make the best possible use of the available EU envelope for the region. Given the success of the first call for proposals, which attracted a high number of projects, the SEE programme is currently "positioning" itself on the "donors market" in the region by following a "better targeting approach" for projects: "the right project at the right place through the right money".

a. General characteristics of the funds available in / for the SEE Area
- Contribute to sustainable development
- Advance regional cooperation
- Better integration of non-EU countries
- The principle of "common benefit"
- Reconstruction of the area
- Overall economic development
- Sharing expertise and best practices

b. Donors active in the SEE area
- European Commission – various instruments, programmes
  - Regional policy – ERDF, Cohesion, ESF, IPA
  - Neighbourhood policy – ENPI funds
  - Thematic programmes following key policies (research, innovation, environment, transport, energy)
- EIB
- EBRD
- EC + EIB + EBRD (Jessica, Jaspers, Jeremie)
- World Bank
- UNDP
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)
- EFSE (European Fund for Southeast Europe Development Facility)
- But also many (smaller) regional players and National funds (USAID, KwF, Swiss Agency for Development etc.)

c. Recent EC strategic documents with impact on funding in the SEE area
- Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2011-2012 (October 2011)
- New Eastern Partnership (December 2008)