



IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece-The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020

ELIGIBLE AREA: SWOT Analysis

CURRENT STATE of the CBC – IPA II GR – FYROM 2014 – 2020



IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme
“Greece-The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020
ELIGIBLE AREA: SWOT Analysis
Thematic Priority: Demography and accessibility

The SWOT analysis demonstrates the:

- STRENGTHS**
- WEAKNESSES**
- OPPORTUNITIES**
- THREATS**

of the eligible area.



INPUTS:

- SWOT analysis of the Operational Programme 2007-2013**
- Recent On-Going evaluation of the Operational Programme**

According to the above evaluation, the major fields showing impacts of economy recession in the main sectors of activities have as follows:



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	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Demography and accessibility	Demography and accessibility Polycentric network of cities Strategic position on the Corridor X (E75) and Egnatia Odos (E90) crossroad Advanced primary transport infrastructure; Port of Thessaloniki as a gateway; Advanced ICT infrastructure;	Dominance of Thessaloniki and spatial imbalances Secondary road network inadequate Migration to third countries from the programme areas of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Restricted cross-border mobility of the people	Completion and Funding of TEN-T and related projects (e.g. Egnatia Odos and Corridor X) WLAN expansion in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Development of South East Europe data communications network	Internal marginalisation of the smaller centres due to accelerated Development of metropolitan areas Urban sprawl and rising consumption of un-replenished natural resources



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Thematic Priority: Geography, Environment and Culture

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Geography, Environment and Culture	Natural environment and valuable ecosystems; including geothermal fields Numerous rivers and lakes Fertile plains and favourable climate for agriculture Rich cultural and natural heritage and developed environmental and cultural institutions Landscape suited for outdoor activities Winter sports Networks and cultural exchanges reinforced during the past cross-border experience	Pollution of common water resources and water bodies Co-operation in the field of environmental protection is still weak No common plan/actions on environmental protection Weak preservation of numerous natural and cultural monuments Weak institutional capacities in the field of environmental protection and monitoring Lack of master plans for the maintenance and enhancement of arch. sites and hist. monuments	EU focus on environmental protection policies including a trans-boundary dimension Enrichment of cultural activities in the frame of free time management Promotion of natural, historical and cultural heritage	Pollution in adjacent areas affecting the eligible area, Climate change. Heavy pressure on the natural and cultural environment from uncontrolled construction activity.



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Thematic Priority: Economy

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Economy	Export oriented and competitive agricultural sector in the Greek prefectures Strong industrial clusters in certain areas Growing cross-border tourism	Sub-regions with high dependency on traditional agriculture Low level of innovation in most industries High level of unemployment in specific rural areas	Rapid economic recovery in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Growing bilateral trade Rising consumer demand for alternative tourism and organic farming	Strong and growing development and income disparities between urban and rural areas High trend industry relocation outside of the area of interest



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Thematic Priority: Education, R&D, Health and Social Protection

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Education, R&D, Health and Social Protection	Availability of competent research institutes and Universities Young population with high interest in the adoption of ICT	Regional and demographic disparities in the education level of human resources;	Telemedicine	Ageing population



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Thematic Priority: Administration and state bodies’ capacities

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Administration and state bodies capacities	Acceptance of new technologies Active NGO Network		Positive experience of cross-border co-operation and cross-border investments (add to analysis) Stable political relations between the 2 countries Candidate status of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and regional focus of Structural Funds Management in Greece Trends for state decentralisation	Delays in institutional framework for regional development in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



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Joint Task Force was formed with stakeholders from relevant Bodies from both countries and the participation of the Programme Structures (MA, JTS, Operating Structure) and the Eur. Commission (EUD)

**28/02 /2013 initial meeting (MA premises)
10/04/2014 second meeting (Serres)
29/5/2014 third meeting (Skopje)**