



Brussels, 11.9.2023
C(2023) 6176 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.9.2023

amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 approving the cross-border cooperation programme “Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – Republic of North Macedonia” for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

CCI 2014TC16I5CB009

(ONLY THE GREEK TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 7322, the cross-border cooperation programme “Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – Republic of North Macedonia” for support from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) was approved.
- (2) On 1 June 2023 Greece on behalf of Greece and North Macedonia submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the cross-border cooperation programme. The request was accompanied by a revised cross-border cooperation programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the cross-border cooperation programme referred to in Article 34(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014² in conjunction with point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655.
- (3) The amendment to the cooperation programme consists of a reallocation of unspent funds from priority axis 3 “Technical assistance” to priority axes 1 “Development and Support of Local Economy” and 2 “Protection of Environment – Transportation”. Consequently the indicative allocations to categories of intervention, the overview of

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 32).

³ Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

the investment strategy, and the breakdown per priority axis and thematic priority should also be changed.

- (4) In accordance with Article 31(5) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the request for the amendment to the cross-border cooperation programme is duly justified by the need to increase the allocation to well performing priority axes 1 and 2 from a priority axis with unspent resources in order to ensure at the same time a better use and a higher degree of absorption of funds. The request for the amendment sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴.
- (5) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 38(6) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the joint monitoring committee at its meeting of 3 February 2023, examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the cross-border cooperation programme, taking into account the text of the revised cross-border cooperation programme and its financing plan.
- (6) The Commission assessed the revised cross-border cooperation programme and did not make observations pursuant to Article 31(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014. Nevertheless, Greece provided supplementary information and submitted a modified version of the revised cross-border cooperation programme on 5 July 2023.
- (7) The amended elements of the revised cross-border cooperation programme should therefore be approved.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision do not fall under the categories of measures for which the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 is required.
- (9) Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:
“The cross-border cooperation programme “Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – Republic of North Macedonia” for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) in Greece and North Macedonia for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 12 May 2015, as last amended by the revised cross-border cooperation programme submitted in its final version on 5 July 2023, as set out in Annex I to this Decision and containing the following priority axes, is hereby approved.”;
2. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;
3. Annex III is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 11.9.2023

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission