

**INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO,  
LAUNCH EVENT IN BARI, WAITING FOR THE FIRST CALL**  
**Bari, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – 9:00 am / 6.30 pm**  
**The Nicolaus Hotel**

The new trilateral Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) has a budget of over 92 million Euros. 25 million euros are allocated on the first Call for Project Proposals – to be published shortly - which will finance cooperation projects in the three involved countries.

The key points of the Programme will be discussed in the Launch Event, scheduled for March 6 in Bari at The Nicolaus Hotel (Via Cardinale Ciasca 27, 9:00 am / 6:30 pm); it will be an important opportunity for dialogue on common development priorities, as well as the occasion to present the first Call for Proposals.

The day will begin with opening remarks by Michele Emiliano, President of Puglia Region, Klajda Gjoshaj, Albanian Minister for European Integration, Miodrag Raceta, Montenegrin Ministry of European Affairs, Clara Rose, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Jean-Pierre Halkin, European Commission - DG for Regional and Urban Policy, Paolo Di Laura-Frattura, President of Molise Region, Nicola Favia, Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers – DPC.

After that, speeches by Domenico Laforgia, Programme Managing Authority, who will draw an overview of cross-border cooperation and Mauro Novello, coordinator of the Joint Secretariat, who will provide guidelines for the submission of project proposals.

The afternoon session will be divided into thematic groups moderated by the Managing Authority's/Joint Secretariat's Staff, with emphasis on four priority axes in terms of competitiveness of SMEs, tourism and culture, environment and water resources, sustainable transport.

Strengthening cooperation in the lower Adriatic sea, favouring smart, inclusive and sustainable development: this is the guiding principle of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme. Italy participates with two regions: Puglia - which also acts as Managing Authority - and Molise; Albania and Montenegro participate with the entire territory.

Register for the event: <http://www.europuglia.it/launch-event>

Download the Programme summary: <http://www.europuglia.it/index.php/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me>

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