

INTERREG IPA CBC PROGRAMME ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO



Citizens' summary

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REGIONE PUGLIA

PUGLIA REGION – Managing Authority / Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro
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THE PROGRAMME AND THE EUROPEAN SCENARIO

The “Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro” is a trilateral cross-border cooperation Programme co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in the programming period 2014-2020.

The Programme is designed in the framework of the European strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth (Europe 2020). It aims to assist participating countries in meeting their national 2020 targets, fostering cross-border cooperation across the Mediterranean, in view of pre-accession of Albania and Montenegro to the European Union.

The Programme is aligned with the broader macro-regional EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and helps Adriatic-Ionian regions of Italy, Albania and Montenegro to achieve growth by building on the 4 EUSAIR thematic pillars: “Blue Growth”, “Connecting the Region”, “Environmental Quality”, “Sustainable Tourism”.

The Programme Managing Authority is Puglia Region - Department for Economic Development, innovation, education, training and employment.

ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

The Programme eligible area covers a total of 66.365 km² and a population of 7.805.809 inhabitants. It includes:

Italy	PUGLIA REGION: provinces of Bari, BAT Barletta-Andria-Trani, Brindisi, Foggia, Lecce, Taranto MOLISE REGION: provinces of Campobasso and Isernia
Albania	The entire country
Montenegro	The entire country

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The total Programme budget is EUR 92,707,558.00.

The Programme is co-financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) at a rate of 85% and requires a share of 15% national co-financing.

PRIORITY AXES AND GOALS

The main goal of the “Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro” is to enhance cooperation in the Programme area to tackle common challenges in order to boost and integrate territorial development.

It aims to enable regional and local stakeholders from eligible areas to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services, and support investment in the areas of interest.

The Programme supports project initiatives related to the following priority axes and specific objectives:

PRIORITY AXES	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
1. Strengthening the cross-border cooperation and competitiveness of SMEs	<i>1.1 Enhance the framework conditions for the development of SME's cross-border market.</i>
2. Smart management of natural and cultural heritage for the exploitation of cross border sustainable tourism and territorial attractiveness	<i>2.1 Boost attractiveness of natural and cultural assets to improve a smart and sustainable economic development.</i>
	<i>2.2 Increase the cooperation of the key actors of the area for the delivery of innovative cultural and creative products.</i>
3. Environment protection, risk management and low carbon strategy	<i>3.1 Increase cross-border cooperation strategies on water landscapes.</i>
	<i>3.2 Promoting innovative practices and tools to reduce carbon emissions, and to improve energy efficiency in the public sector</i>
4. Increasing cross border accessibility, promoting sustainable transport service and facilities and improving public infrastructures	<i>4.1 Increase coordination among relevant stakeholders to promote sustainable cross border connections in the cooperation area.</i>

TYPES OF PROJECTS

The Programme supports the following kind of project interventions:

- Standard projects
- Strategic projects
- Thematic projects

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Increased number of small and medium-sized enterprises through an improved business environment; enhanced SME competitiveness through the development of local cross-border markets and internationalization.
- Improved attractiveness of natural and cultural assets with the increased delivery of innovative products and services; strengthened environmental protection and conservation of natural habitats; increased structured cooperation and networking in cultural and creative sectors.
- Improved water cycle management, coastal and inland risk prevention and biodiversity safeguard; reduced carbon emissions and improved energy efficiency in the public sector.
- Increased cross-border accessibility via sustainable, efficient, quality transport services and facilities and improved public infrastructures; development of new intermodal maritime-based transport systems.

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