

Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro



Public notice for
Thematic Projects

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INTRODUCTION

The Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro is a multilateral cross border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in the 2014–2020 programming period.

The approved programme, including priority axes, specific objectives, eligible areas, financial allocation and programme strategic goals may be found at <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/documenti>. On the same page, the programme strategic framework is further described in details in the Manual (01 Strategy, Factsheet 1.1.).

1. ADOPTED METHODOLOGY FOR THEMATIC PROJECT SELECTION

On 5 July 2017 the Joint Monitoring Committee agreed on the methodology in annex 1 for the Thematic Projects selection, which has been updated in its timetable, by the Joint Monitoring Committee.

2. SELECTED TOPICS AND ELIGIBLE PARTNERS

On the basis of the approved methodology and the work of an informal working group meeting on 6 January 2018 in Campobasso, the Joint Monitoring Committee in a written procedure of 9 February 2018 approved following topics for the thematic projects.

Accordingly, in the meeting of Podgorica on 17 April 2018, amended with written procedure no. 11 of 15 June 2018, it selected public and public law partners competent for these topics according to the national legislation, who received the mandate to develop thematic projects, as specified below:

P.A./S.O. /Pj.No.	Topic	Selected partners
1.1.04	Telemedicine for SMEs	Lead: Polyclinic of Bari (Puglia, IT) Partners: Polyclinic of Foggia (Puglia), Puglia Region – Health Department (Associated partner), Molise Region (Actual partner TBC) Ministry of Health of Albania, Ministry of Health of Montenegro
1.1.07	Internationalisation/governance for SMEs	Lead: Ministry of Economy of Montenegro Partners: Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Regione Puglia (International Policies Coordination), Regione Molise (competent Dept.), Office for European Integration of Montenegro
1.1.08	Agro-food for SMEs	Lead: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Albania Partners: Regional Development Agency n. 3 – Albania, Regional Development Agency n. 4 – Albania, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari), Puglia Region - General Secretariat of the Presidency “Health Market Place”, Molise Region, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Montenegro
2.1.03	Tourism	Lead: Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment Partners: Montenegrin Ministry for Tourism and Sustainable Development, Regione Puglia (Tourism, Economy of Culture and Territorial valorization Department), Regione Molise (competent Dept.)
2.2.05	Culture	Lead: Montenegrin Ministry of Culture

		Partners: Ministry of Culture of Albania, Institute of Monuments of Culture of Albania, National Center of Cinematography, “Alba Film Studio” , Regione Puglia (Tourism, Economy of Culture and Territorial valorization Department), Apulian Public Theatre, Regione Molise (competent Dept.)
3.1.01	Risk management and civil protection	Lead: Regione Molise (Civil Protection Dept.) Partners: Ministry of Defense of Albania/Civil Emergencies Department, Montenegrin Ministry of Interior, Head of Division for Emergency Situation, Regione Puglia (Civil Protection Unit)
3.1.02	Water management	Lead: Regione Puglia (Agriculture Department, Water Resources Unit) Partners: Municipality of Tirana, Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise of Tirana (UKT), Montenegrin Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Apulian Public Aqueduct, Regione Molise (competent Dept.)
4.1.06	Transport	Lead: Albanian Development Fund Partners: Montenegrin Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Puglia Region (Mobility, Urban quality, Public works, ecology and landscape), Regione Molise (competent Dept.)

Note: The Joint Monitoring Committee selected only these public/public law partners, who have the competence for the selected topics, according to a provision of national law or regulatory legal act, as well as sufficient financial and managerial capacity to be thematic project partners. Only these partners are eligible for thematic projects.

Any additional partner or change of the project partners shall be proposed by the lead partner and it shall be endorsed by the Joint Monitoring Committee with the approval of the project.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATED TO THE THEMATIC PROJECTS

The total budget allocated to the thematic projects amounts to **EUR 40.000.000,00** (including national co-financing), according to the decision made in Podgorica on 17 April 2018.

The funds allocation is **indicative and by no means an approved budget**. The project budget shall be the outcome of the project development and strictly connected to the planned activities and expected results, which shall be approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee on the basis of the analysis by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat.

Funds remaining after project approvals shall be made available for future calls of the Programme.

4. THEMATIC PROJECT FEATURES AND ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURES

The Joint Monitoring Committee, in the methodology developed according to the decision of 5 July 2017, approved following key features for thematic projects:

- **Project size:** Up to maximum 7 Million EURO total budget, including 85% IPA Contribution and 15% National co-financing.
- **Project duration:** Maximum 48 months. All project expenditures, including all closure costs, shall be reported until 31.12.2022 at the very latest, i.e. project end date to be set at 30.06.2022.

- **Project partnership:** The partners selected by the Joint Monitoring Committee, being public bodies and bodies governed by public law, in charge of the identified topics according to national legislation.
- **Project preparation costs:** Real cost expenditures are eligible starting from the date of the approval by the JMC of project ideas until the project start date set in the application form and up to 40.000 EURO.
- **Project closure costs:** Real costs expenditures related to audit and reporting activities are eligible for 6 months from the date of project end (incl. final reporting and audits of both project partners and the LP).
- **Pre-financing:** First pre-financing 15% of IPA contribution by signature of subsidy contract, second pre-financing 15% of IPA contribution once the lead partner has reported 10% of IPA contribution. Offset of pre-financing in equal shares in the last 3 reporting periods.
- **De- commitment targets:** If a project partner does not reach at least 85% of the spending target for a specific period, which was fixed in the approved application form, the Managing Authority may de-commit the difference between target and the certified amount, which will become available for the specific Priority Axis, unless this is not due to partner's failures.
- Detailed **eligibility rules for the expenditures** are specified in the programme manual fact sheet no. 4.10 published at <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/documenti>.

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The Joint Secretariat and National Info Points in Albania and Montenegro will be in charge of technical advice related to project development and eligibility, including in particular:

- Typology of activities, actions and products, eligible according to the EU Regulations and the adopted Cooperation Programme;
- Category of expenditures and eligibility rules;
- Technical questions on the electronic monitoring system (eMS).

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Each Lead Partner will have a dedicated contact person at the Joint Secretariat, to facilitate the communication flows.

An online document for the frequently asked questions by thematic project lead partners will be published regularly during project development.

According to the decision of the JMC with written procedure no. 14 of 5 September 2018, the deadline for submission of thematic projects is 03.10.2018, without possibility of further postponement and the consequent rejection of non-submitted thematic projects. Lead partners are advised to upload the project proposal by 24.09.2018, in order to receive a feedback by the Joint Secretariat.

Any postponement approved by the Managing Authority of the Programme, in consultation with and on behalf of the Joint Monitoring Committee, shall be notified to the project Lead Partners in due time.

The thematic projects cannot be financed if not compliant with the technical and administrative requirements, as well as if not in line with the objectives, expected results and actions set in the Cooperation Programme. Therefore, **during project development the technical advice of the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat shall be compulsorily requested and complied with by the selected Lead Partner**, who is responsible to lead on the project development in consultation with the partnership.

To do this, identified lead partners will be invited to **thematic workshops**, where technical advice will be provided by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat.

Furthermore the Lead Partner shall require at least one consultation meeting **within 45 working** days before the deadline, to be held with the Joint Secretariat. On the basis of this advice, at least **30 working days** before the deadline, the Lead Partner shall upload a draft version of the project proposal and inform the Joint Secretariat, while filling in the **Project Proposal Form online** through the Electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (eMS), in order to obtain a final advice before submission. The Joint Secretariat either confirms that the technical, administrative and programme content requirements are fulfilled or propose optimization of the project proposals **within 5 working days** before the deadline.

The final project proposals have to be submitted within the deadline through the eMS and it shall include the LP/PP Statements duly stamped and signed by all participating partners and for associated partners a declaration of interest (standard forms provided) as attachment¹. Before the signature of the subsidy contract, the Lead Partner shall provide the document, in which the legal representation of the partner organisation is specified. The same requirement is set for all partners, before signing the partnership agreement.

6. APPROVAL BY THE JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

Only submitted projects fulfilling the cooperation programme requirements and complying with the Cooperation Programme content may be submitted by the Joint Secretariat to the Joint Monitoring Committee for approval, following the development methodology explained above.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall be informed by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat also about those projects, which did not comply with the technical, administrative and substantial requirements of the Cooperation Programme, for a follow-up by the National Delegations.

The Approval of Thematic Projects by the Joint Monitoring Committee is foreseen approximately **after 25 working days after submission**. In particular, on the basis of the analysis performed by the Joint Secretariat, the Joint Monitoring Committee with its decision shall confirm that the Thematic Projects fully comply with the strategic criteria set for the project ideas i.e.:

1. Cross-border and territorial relevance,
2. Coherence with Programme strategy,
3. Relevance of expected impact,
4. Relevance of partners,
5. Sustainability.

With the approval, the Joint Monitoring Committee shall give the mandate to the Managing Authority to sign the subsidy contract with the Lead Partner.

7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROCEDURE

According to the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, responsibility for the administrative procedures of this Call for proposals lays on Puglia Region, in the person of the Director of the Managing Authority Office.

8. ENCLOSURES

- Annex 1: Methodology for thematic projects
- Annex 2: Application package

¹ For scanned documents the advisable format is .pdf