

Press release / 13.12.2017

**INTERREG IPA CBC ITALIA-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME**  
**More than 30 mln euros available for projects approved within the first call**

Intense days of work for the members of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro programme, who have completed the evaluation process of the proposals submitted in the framework of the 1st call for projects proposals.

*"We are proud to announce the publication of the score grid for the first call" agree the representatives of the three countries and the Managing Authority of the programme. "The competition among the 190 project proposals was extremely tough, but thanks to an excellent cooperation among all programme authorities, it was possible to select the best projects. The territories of the three countries are going to benefit from excellent and concrete projects, increasing competitiveness, touristic and cultural attractiveness, environmental protection and energy efficiency, as well as the accessibility".*

"Focus on quality" was the key principle that marked the examination of the proposals, conducted by programme experts through a meticulous admissibility check and a careful qualitative assessment. Utmost attention was paid to the innovativeness of project proposals, their concreteness, impact on territory, solidity of partnerships and sustainability.

The Joint Monitoring Committee decided to increase by about 5 million euros the amount allocated to the Call; the total budget available under the four priority axes will therefore exceed 30 million euros. The projects in the ranking list will be financed as far as funds are available, taking into consideration the fact that some budget reductions will be introduced for each of the projects after negotiations among the applicants and the Joint Secretariat.

Now the phase of optimization of project budgets and planning is starting, to be finished by February 2018.

The Decree n. 85 of 12/12/2017 by the Programme Managing Authority and the score grid of projects submitted within the 1st Call are available at: <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/bandi>.

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The Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), has a total budget of 92.707.558,00 euro (including 15% national co-financing). Italy participates with two regions: Puglia - which also acts as Managing Authority - and Molise; Albania and Montenegro participate with the entire territory. The objective is to promote economic growth and to intensify cooperation in the low Adriatic area, by implementing joint actions between national and regional institutional and non-profit actors and by fostering smart, inclusive and sustainable development.

[www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu)

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