

## **IN BARI THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME**

*Cooperation that has deep roots: it is renewed with the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, presented in Bari on 6 March 2017*

It's a long history of cooperation that holds together for decades Italy and the Balkans. A story passed through the Interreg Italy-Albania and the IPA Adriatic Programmes, to reach our days with the new trilateral Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, which involves Puglia, Molise, Albania and Montenegro and sees Puglia Region in the role of Managing Authority.

The launch event, scheduled for March 6 in Bari, offers an opportunity not only to illustrate the novelty of a Programme that develops the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and of the Cohesion Policy, implementing joint actions between national and regional actors in order to promote economic growth, but it also represents the perfect time to anticipate the contents and guidelines of the first Call for Proposals, which will be published soon and will finance cooperation projects in the three involved countries.

About 92 million euro the overall funding for the Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); of these, 25 million euro will be allocated on the first Call for Proposals.

Interventions will be focused on four priorities: strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs in order to improve the development of the cross-border market; smart management of natural and cultural heritage, to encourage sustainable tourism; protecting the environment and improving energy efficiency, to manage the risk associated to a wrong use of coal and water resources; improving cross-border accessibility, to ensure sustainable transport services.

Italy participates with two regions: Puglia and Molise: Albania and Montenegro participate with the entire territory.

The aim is to encourage these territories to create the conditions for smart, inclusive and sustainable development, also in line with the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), which focuses on four thematic pillars: "Blue Growth" , "Connecting the Region", "Environmental Quality", "Sustainable tourism."



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

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

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

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

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