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## **ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME, THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST CALL IS COMING**

There is little more than two weeks left until the closure of the first Call for Proposals for standard projects of the Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme. The deadline for submitting project proposals is set for May 15 and no prolongation is planned. Proposals can be submitted through the Electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (eMS) available at [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu).

The Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), allocated on this first call 25 million euro (including 15% national co-financing), distributed over four priority axes (SMEs' competitiveness, tourism and culture, environment and energy, sustainable transport). Specifically, the proposals will have to be focused on a single axis and one of its specific objectives, and the projects, which may last no longer than 24 months, will have to focus on quality, feasibility and sustainability.

The Programme eligible area includes two regions of a EU member State (Apulia and Molise) and two pre-accession countries (Albania and Montenegro), which share a maritime border; projects must involve at least one partner from each participating country. The total number of partners must not exceed six including the Lead Partner; public bodies, bodies governed by public law and private non-profit organisations are eligible.

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 promoting integrated territorial development.

"Our wish - as Domenico Laforgia, Programme Management Authority / Puglia Region has said - is to finance actions that have a strong impact on the territory, projects that create real integration, joint initiatives for smart, inclusive and sustainable development of the three participating countries. "

Information on the Call and FAQs: <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/bandi>

Direct link to the eMS: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/ems/app/main?execution=e1s1>.

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Contacts: [js@italy-Albania-Montenegro.eu](mailto:js@italy-Albania-Montenegro.eu)

PUGLIA REGION - Joint Secretariat Communication Officer  
*Ileana Inglese* +39 338 6488905 [i.inglese@regione.puglia.it](mailto:i.inglese@regione.puglia.it)

