

## **ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME, FIRST CALL DEADLINE POSTPONED BY 15 DAYS**

At the request of the representatives of the participating Countries, the closing date of the first Call for Proposals for standard projects of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme has been postponed by 15 calendar days. The new deadline for submitting project proposals is set on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (h. 23:59 CET); proposals must be submitted exclusively through the Electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (eMS), available at [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu).

A useful time to consolidate partnerships and refine the proposals that will be selected on the basis of their concreteness, sustainability, quality. "Project quality is planning clear results already in the project development phase," comments Mauro Novello, coordinator of the Joint Secretariat. "During project assessment, we will also focus on the legacy that the project leaves and on the wealth generated in terms of improvement of the economic, social and environmental conditions for the populations involved."

The budget of this first call amounts to 25 million Euros (including 15% national co-financing); the call finances cooperation projects, lasting up to 24 months, in areas such as SME competitiveness, blue economy, research and technological development, new products and integrated tourist routes, environmental risk prevention, adaptation to climate change and renewable energies, enhancement of infrastructures and cross-border air and maritime transport interconnections.

The eligible area includes four territories - Apulia, Molise, Albania and Montenegro - which, in addition to a maritime boundary, share history, cultural roots, needs and common challenges. "A strong bond links Puglia to Albania and Montenegro," notes Domenico Laforgia, Programme Management Authority / Puglia Region - A friendship held alive by inter-institutional dialogue and intense planning activity, that has strengthened the relationship between the three countries, in line with the European goals. Our hope is that common challenges bring together successful partnerships and joint projects."

In the spirit of cooperation, 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 of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), 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.

Info on the call: <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/bandi>

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/italy.albania.montenegro/>

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