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**INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME,
22 APPROVED PROJECTS, SHORTLY THE FINAL LIST.**

The 4th meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, held recently in Lecce, was concluded with great satisfaction of the representatives of the Member States, the European Commission and the Managing Authority /Puglia Region. The approval of projects submitted within the first Call for Proposals was among the crucial items of the agenda.

*"An excellent result has been achieved in the framework of a strategic cooperation between Italy, Albania and Montenegro", congratulates the Governor of the Puglia Region **Michele Emiliano**. "I am very pleased that a pre-agreement has been reached on future institutional thematic projects, which will be launched during 2018. The themes identified by the partners are civil protection, water management, culture and tourism, telemedicine and energy efficiency."*

*"We have focused on quality - emphasizes **Domenico Laforgia**, Programme Managing Authority - both in the eligibility and in the quality assessment of the project proposals, conducted through a meticulous cross-check by programme experts. The qualitative assessment, in particular, has paid utmost attention to the innovativeness of project proposals, their concreteness, impact on territory, solidity of partnerships and sustainability. Twenty-two projects were approved on a total of 190 proposals received under the four priority axes: competitiveness and SMEs, tourism and culture, environment and energy, sustainable transport. The projects in the ranking list will be financed as far as funds are available. In a few days the publication of the final list is expected."*

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.

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