

# Pre-announcement

## Targeted call for project proposals

Please note that this document is issued by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro on behalf of the participating countries, represented at the Joint Monitoring Committee. It is provided only for information purposes, while the legally binding version of the targeted call for project proposals shall be published in the official journal of the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority reserves the right to modify the terms of this pre-announcement, in consultation with the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The official publication of the call is currently planned for **February 2019 and it will be open for 60 calendar days** from the day of publication (until 11:59 AM of the 60th day, including day of publication). The official publication at <http://beta.regione.puglia.it/bollettino-ufficiale> will be also announced at [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu), <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/open-calls-%26-notices>, <http://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/> and <http://www.mep.gov.me/>

In order to support interested partners to look for potential partners, **partner searches** requested to email [js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu](mailto:js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu), starting from the publication of this document, will be published on the programme website, if they include at least a) selected specific objective, b) project idea description (500 characters), c) type of partners and countries searched, d) organisation name, e) contact person email, f) consensus to publish the data for partner searches, in compliance with EU General Data Protection Regulation (please include all items/all letters).

### INTRODUCTION

The Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro is a trilateral cross border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in the 2014–2020 programming period.

The approved programme, including priority axes, specific objectives, eligible areas, financial allocation and programme strategic goals may be found at <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/official-docs> and further described in details in the Manual (01 Strategy, Factsheet 1.1.) at: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/tools/programme-manual/strategy>.

### 1. TARGETED CALL

#### Definition

This call for project proposals is targeted to specific topics, which have been addressed in the adopted Cooperation Programme, but they have not been tackled, or not sufficiently been tackled, by the first call for standard projects and by the thematic projects. In this sense, this is a strategic and key call for the purpose of achieving the programme objectives.



These topics have been identified through a gap analysis developed by the Joint Secretariat, discussed and adopted at the Joint Monitoring Committee meeting of Podgorica on 17 April 2018.

Accordingly, project proposals, which potentially contribute to fill in these gaps, **will receive additional points** and have more chances to be financed, as specified in the selection criteria below.

### Missing topics identified

For each Specific Objectives, these are the missing topics for which gaps have been identified:

- **S.O. 1.1. Competitiveness (only small scale projects):**
  - Social innovation/inclusion,
  - Blue and green economy.

Guidance at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1>

[https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue\\_growth\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth_en)

- **S.O. 2.1. Tourism:**
  - Family tourism,
  - Sport/adventure tourism,
  - Youngsters tourism.

Guidance at: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/offer\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/offer_en)

- **S.O. 2.2. Culture:**
  - Arts other than visual arts (music, literature, etc.).

Guidance at: [https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policy/cultural-creative-industries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policy/cultural-creative-industries_en)

- **S.O. 3.1 Environment (no resource available)**
- **S.O. 3.2. Energy**
  - common energy planning,
  - Adoption of European standards in the RES and RUE sector for public administrations.

Guidance at: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-efficiency>

- **S.O. 4.1. Transport:**
  - Multimodal connections,
  - Custom procedures,
  - Connections between the main cross border transport infrastructures and the EU trans-European corridors,
  - Improvement of maritime connections,
  - Optimization of out of standard loads.

Guidance at: [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en)

If applicable, projects may identify one or more topics belonging to the same Specific Objective (not across objectives). Only the contribution to the topics of the same specific objective of the project are considered for the additional points.

### Capitalisation

Moreover, the project proposals, which plan concrete and precise capitalization actions, as well as build up synergies with existing projects and initiatives may receive additional points. Even more if the projects precisely avoid overlapping especially with existing projects of partners / areas / activities already financed in the first call, of which the partners are aware.

### EUSAIR

Additional points are foreseen also for project proposals having objectives and activities, which are explicitly foreseen in the EUSAIR action plan (see <https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/library/>). In this case the project shall

clearly outline how these activities are going to be followed up on within the EUSAIR and with the EUSAIR stakeholders. Together with the existing criteria, up to 8 points may be given in this criterion.

### SMALL SCALE PROJECTS

The programme bodies intends to contribute to simplification for beneficiaries, especially the small organisations, while using one of the foreseen **simplified cost options (SCOs)**. At the same time the programme intends to test innovative financing options also in compliance with the general simplification principle set in the ERDF and IPA regulations.

Applicants can choose to apply for a targeted “standard” project or for “small scale project”. The same partnership cannot submit the same proposal for both typologies.

Project proposals submitted as “small scale projects” follow the restricted rules defined by the Annex 2 “SMALL SCALE PROJECTS”.

## 2. PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The overall provisional financial allocation for the 4 priority axes is as follows:

Axis	IPA Contribution (85%)	National Contribution (15%)	Total (100%)
1 Competitiveness	85.000,00	15.000,00	100.000,00
2 Tourism	2.845.854,31	502.209,58	3.348.063,90
3 Environment	4.591.729,43	810.305,19	5.402.034,63
4 Transport	4.022.184,42	709.797,25	4.731.981,67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.544.768,17</b>	<b>2.037.312,03</b>	<b>13.582.080,19</b>

Please note that for P.A. 3, S.O. 3.1. it is not possible to submit project proposals, as the entire amount of P.A. 3 is allocated to S.O. 3.2. energy efficiency. For P.A. 1, S.O. 1.1. it is possible to submit only small scale project proposals. This allocation includes the Small Scale Project allocation.

The participating countries represented at the Joint Monitoring Committee may decide to change the final financial allocation before publishing the targeted call.

### Co-financing

The EU contribution to projects shall be up to 85% of eligible expenditure, while 15% shall be provided according to the national systems. Concerning Italy, the national co-financing is guaranteed to public partners by CIPE Resolution n. 10 of 28 of January 2015. The national co-financing is not provided to eligible private partners, which have to contribute to projects’ proposals with their own resources. For Albania and Montenegro, each partner is obliged to provide co-financing at project’s level.

### Pre-financing

Pre-financing 20% of IPA contribution by signature of subsidy contract Offset of pre-financing in equal shares in the three reporting periods. Private lead partners shall be required to provide a financial guarantee for the pre-financing.

According to the reimbursement principle, the partners shall have financial capacity to advance all costs, which shall be reimbursed upon the foreseen verifications on paid expenditures.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

### **Open ranking list**

The outcome of the project selection shall be an open ranking list, which is going to be valid until all funds of the programme are absorbed. This means, that in case funds become available in a specific objective, e.g. because of project savings or thematic project allocation not fully absorbed, the next project of the list is going to be financed.

Two separate open ranking lists are foreseen: one for “standard” and one for “small scale projects”.

### **De- commitment targets**

If a project partner does not reach at least 85% of the spending target for a specific period<sup>1</sup>, which was fixed in the approved application form, the Managing Authority may de-commit the difference between target and the certified amount, which will become available for the specific Priority Axis, unless this is not due to partner’s failures, of which the partner shall provide evidence.

### **Eligibility rules**

Detailed eligibility rules for the expenditures are specified in the programme manual fact sheet no. 4.10 published at <http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/documenti>.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

## **3. PROJECT PARTNERS**

### **Eligibility of partners according to location**

Lead partners and project partners must be established in the eligible territories of the Countries participating in the Programme. Partners having the registered office outside the Programme area, but the branch office established in the Programme area, will be eligible for funding, provided that the branch office has full legal capacity<sup>2</sup>.

### **Eligibility of partners according to legal status**

The following types of partners, according to their legal status, are eligible for funding:

- Public bodies;
- Bodies governed by public law<sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> Reporting periods corresponds with the first and the second semester of the year (1 Jan – 30 Jun , 1 Jul – 31 Dec). If project start date is in the middle of a semester (e.g. 1 Apr) the first period is shorter (e.g. 1 Apr – 30 Jun), the last period is longer (e.g. 1 Jul – 30 Sep) as to reach the number of months set for the project duration.

<sup>2</sup> Full legal capacity means also that the branch office has financial and administrative power to undertake commitments, make payments and keep project accounts and audit trail.

<sup>3</sup> They are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (not having an industrial or commercial character); (b) They are financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law; or are subject to management supervision by those authorities or bodies; or have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law, according to art. 2 (4) of EU Directive 24/2014.

- Non-profit organisations, established according to the applicable legal framework/law in the respective country<sup>4</sup>.

Partners shall not fulfill exclusion criteria set in art. 106 and 107 of Regulation (EU) No 966/2012.

Non-profit organizations must be operational for at least 12 months before the launch of the call for proposals.

NGOs or Social Partners (Chambers of commerce, business organisations, etc.) are encouraged to participate.

#### **Partnerships**

The minimum eligible partnership must involve at least one partner from each participating Country and Italian Region:

- at least 1 partner from Puglia (Region of the EU Member State);
- at least 1 partner from Molise (Region of the EU Member State);
- at least 1 partner from Albania;
- at least 1 partner from Montenegro.

The **total number of partners must not exceed five (5) including the Lead Partner.**

Projects can also have **associated partners**, taking part to the activities without receiving financing, for a maximum of one per partner.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

The partnership has to appoint a Lead Partner, who is responsible for the preparation and submission of the application form. In case of approval of the project, the Lead Partner takes over the responsibility for management, communication, implementation, and coordination of activities among the involved partners.

#### **Limitations for specific partners**

In compliance with the targeted approach of this call, in order to balance participation of partners over-represented in the first call and thematic projects, as well as to encourage big organisations to strategically plan their participation, a limitation for certain types of partners is set.

Legal entities being universities<sup>5</sup>, research centers / bodies, as well as national ministries or Italian regional authorities<sup>6</sup> are allowed **to apply as lead partners in maximum one project per specific objective and as**

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<sup>4</sup> (a) They are not established with the goal to obtain profit; (b) do not distribute profits to the shareholders, (c) They do not have the organizational structure of an undertaking or a regular presence on the market; (d) They have legal personality. For the purposes of this point (d), for Italian partners grant applications may be eligible if submitted by entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the entity and offer guarantees for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to those offered by legal persons according to art. 131 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012.

<sup>5</sup> Albanian faculties, having separate legal personality within the same university, are allowed to apply as Lead Partner to

only 1 project and as Project Partner to only 1 project per Specific Objective

<sup>6</sup> Even though made of several departments or operative branches, the legal entity is considered as a single entity if it is established and operates as one body from the legal and fiscal point of view (e.g. a single VAT / registration number, a single statute, a single balance sheet, etc.). Even though heads of department, faculty, institute etc. might have a power to sign and represent the legal body, it remains one single legal body. Only for the purpose of this limitation, **Regione Puglia and Regione Molise are considered as National Ministries in Albania and**

**partner in maximum two projects per specific objective**, i.e. max. 3 projects per S.O. in total, i.e. max. 12 in total, in addition to Small Scale Projects, which is counted separately. After the call closure, the number of applications per legal body of these typologies shall be counted in chronological order of submission and **all applications submitted after the maximum number of projects is reached per partner shall be excluded at the eligibility check**. Big organisations -such as Regions, Universities and Ministries- are strongly recommended to use these additional months to carefully plan and coordinate the project proposals they would like to participate in, in order to avoid that high quality projects are rejected because they are submitted later than poorer quality projects by the same organisation. A possible solution could be to rely on an internal coordination office/person.

Furthermore, coordination of activities of all project proposals submitted within the current and future calls by the same partner will be carefully assessed by the representatives of the participating countries.

In compliance with art. 11 (4) of Reg. EU No. 1299/2013, partners shall cooperate in the development and implementation of projects. In addition, they shall cooperate in the staffing or the financing of projects, or in both.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

#### 4. PROJECT SIZE

The total budget of the projects must respect the following financial thresholds (including EU + national public or private co-financing):

- **Maximum budget** (EU contribution + national co-financing) = EUR 850.000 (except for PA 4, which is EUR 1.200.000)
- **Minimum budget** (EU contribution + national co-financing) = EUR 400.000.

No minimum budget per partner is required. However, projects shall demonstrate a balanced distribution of tasks and budget among partners (see quality criteria B5, B7 and B9), in order to ensure that each partner concretely contributes to achieving the projects goals. As a general principle, a balanced budget per partner is not lower than 10% of the total budget. Lower partner budget's should be justified.

**These requirements do not apply to Small Projects, for which the Annex 2 is applicable.**

#### 5. PROJECT DURATION AND PREPARATION-CLOSURE LUMPSUMS

The project implementation shall not be longer than **18 months**, starting from the project start date, set during the contracting procedure. A prolongation of additional 6 months may be approved by the JMC, if duly justified.

Expenditures incurred to develop the project (project preparation) before the project start date will not be reimbursed, but are covered by a lump sum of 10.000,00 EUR (IPA 85%, co-financing 15%) to the lead partner. According to the same principle, all expenditures incurred to close the project (project closure) after the project end date will be covered by a lump sum of 5.000,00 EUR (IPA 85%, co-financing 15%) to the lead partner.

**For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.**

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Montenegro, while local authorities in Albania and Montenegro are not counted as regional authorities.



## 6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The project proposals have to be submitted in one step electronic procedure through the Electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (eMS). The address of the eMS will be published on the Programme website with the publication of the call.

The project lead partner shall submit it on behalf of the partnership. All the compulsory documents to be filled in for submitting a project proposal are included in the Application Package available at [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu).

The Application Package includes the following documents:

- a) Application Form
- b) LP/PP Statements duly stamped (if stamp is applicable) and signed by all participating partners (standard form provided) and for associated partners a declaration, including state aid assessment<sup>7</sup>;
- c) Statute and/or legal Act which sets up the partner institution/organization involved in the proposal, in which its legal representation is specified. Statute and/or legal act can be submitted also in the national language. A translation into English is preferable.
- d) For private partners, the balance sheets of the last two accounting years, or of the last accounting year in case of organization established only in the last 12 months, issued according to national legislation.

The Application Form and LP/PP Statement must be filled in English in all their parts and the Lead Partners and partners must not modify the templates provided by the Programme. The Lead Partner is responsible for submitting the project proposal.

It means that the Lead Partner has to collect the required documents from all involved partners and submit the project proposal according to the application procedures. Before the submission of the Application Form, the Lead Partner needs to register in the eMS. The Lead Partner must fill in and submit the Project Application Form ONLY online at the electronic Monitoring system (eMS).

## 7. APPLICATION FORM

The Application Form is structured according to the following chapters:

- Project summary;

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<sup>7</sup> The presence of State Aid can be confirmed only if all the following 5 cumulative criteria are fulfilled 1) The measure must confer a benefit or advantage on the recipient which it would not otherwise have received (which is always the case for any Interreg Programme); 2) It must be granted by a EU Member State or through State resources (which is always the case for any Interreg Programme); 3) It must selectively favour certain undertakings or the production of certain goods; 4) It must distort or threaten to distort competition; 5) It must affect trade between EU Member States. All project activities have to comply with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. The de-minimis threshold is EUR 200 000 (cash grant equivalent) over any three tax year period.

- Partnership;
- Project description;
- Work plan, structured according to work packages;
- Project budget overview;
- Partners' budget;
- Attachments.

The submitted project proposal needs to demonstrate:

- What it wants to change and why;
- What it needs to deliver to obtain the change;
- How it will do it and what resources it needs for it.

The submitted project proposal must show a direct link to the Programme intervention logic and its contribution to the Programme objectives achievement. The project main overall objective contributes to the Programme priority specific objective; the project overall objective describes the general, strategic and long term change the project intends to support for the benefit of the identified target group(s). The project specific objective describes the specific and immediate effects of the project that can be realistically achieved within the project life-time; the project result contributes to the Programme result, even if project results will not be directly aggregated on Programme level, as Programme result indicators measure changes in the whole Programme area.

The project outputs contribute to the achievement of Programme outputs so they can be aggregated at Programme level.

Project activities within the frame of the Programme shall be organised around work packages, i.e. a group of related project activities necessary to produce project deliverables and outputs. Each work package, structured in activities, shall provide information on the partners involved, the description of the related deliverables and expected outputs, and the related budget.

The partnership can structure its project proposal according to a maximum number of work packages, keeping in mind that FOUR of them are compulsory:

- 1) Project Management, describing how management on strategic and operational level will be carried out in the project;
- 2) Communication, including the strategic planning of communication activities and a clear indication of the target group(s) to address. A web space will be made available in the Programme website to all selected projects, to be used as project website. A logo will also be provided to all selected projects. In the implementation manual more guidance will be given;
- 3) Project implementation – which can consist of further work packages, which describe what the partnership intends to implement to reach the foreseen goals. Each project proposal shall contribute to the realization of at least 1 Programme output as set in the cooperation Programme; project partners have to explain how project outputs feed Programme output indicators.
- 4) Pilot action. Each project proposal has to include **at least one innovative and concrete pilot action**, which shall provide for **wide visibility and concrete results** in the territories. In the WP description, the project partners have to precisely describe what are the innovative aspects of this action, e.g. in terms of innovative products / outputs resulting from the activities, as well as in terms of innovative processes to reach specific



goals. It shall include a brief analysis of the state of play in the concerned topic (i.e. the baseline), in order to stress the elements, making the action particularly innovative (i.e. the innovative added value).

5) Non-compulsory work packages: preparation for the Lead Partner only (covering all costs before the project duration on a lump sum basis). Additional implementation work packages are also non-compulsory.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

## **8. SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Following the submission of the project proposals, each of them will be subject to a formal assessment on:

- Eligibility;
- Quality check of technical nature.

The project proposals are also subject to a policy check by the Joint Steering Committee.

## **9. ELIGIBILITY CHECK**

The project proposals are checked against following technical criteria:

- Submission in time
- Submission through the eMS
- Obligatory annexes correct and submitted
- Supporting documents duly filled, signed and stamped (if stamp is applicable)
- Geographical location of activities and partners
- Eligibility of Lead Partner
- Eligibility of Project Partners
- Requirements regarding the minimum and maximum number of partners, including maximum numbers of applications for universities, research bodies, ministries and Italian regional authorities.
- Maximum co-financing rate respected
- Minimum and maximum amounts per project respected
- “Non-profit organizations” Partners registered at least in the last 12 month
- The project includes at least four work packages (Project management, Implementation, Communication, Pilot action)

The formal assessment will be performed by the Joint Secretariat with the support of the respective National Authorities and National Info Points, under the supervision of the Managing Authority as responsible for the procedure. Only the project proposals that fulfill the admissibility and eligibility criteria are admitted to the further quality assessment, while the not eligible ones are rejected by the decision of the JMC.

For “Small Scale Projects” the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

Partners may be requested to provide minor integrations or to correct minor clerical errors in the documents, upon approval by the Managing Authority and within a fixed deadline. Besides these cases, following errors lead to an automatic rejection, without possibility to amend or correct these:

- 1) Delayed submission or submission not through the eMS;
- 2) Missing statements, or not duly signed and stamped (if stamp is applicable), i.e. no or insufficient evidence of the willingness of the legal representative of the partner’s organisation;
- 3) Incorrect statements submitted, e.g. substantially changed statements;
- 4) One or more key documents are missing, e.g. accompanying act attesting the legal power of the signatory or lack of evidence on the capacity of partners;

- 5) Maximum and minimum budget amounts for project proposal are exceeded;
- 6) Partners not having autonomous legal seat in the eligible area;
- 7) The signatory has not the legal power to represent the partner's organisation;
- 8) Number of applications exceeds the rule on maximum number of applications;
- 9) Missing one or more compulsory work packages (Project management, Implementation, Communication, Pilot action).

## 10. QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The project proposals are checked against following set of quality criteria approved by the JMC. For "Small Scale Projects" the rules are specified in the Annex 2.

<b>STRATEGIC CRITERIA</b>	<b>Max Pts.</b>
A.1. The project involves relevant Project Partners from all participating countries and they prove the necessary experience and competence in the field concerned.	5
A.2. The coherence between the objectives of the project and the composition of the partnership is assured.	3
A.3. The project addresses common territorial challenges, joint assets and opportunities in the programme area - there is a real need for the project and it is in line with National and/or regional Strategies of the participating countries.	5
A.4. The importance of the cross- border approach to the topic addressed is clearly described; the project results and outputs cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation.	3
A.5. There is a clear benefit from cooperating for the Project Partners, the target groups and/or for the programme area.	5
A.6. The project overall objective clearly links to a Programme priority objective.	5
A.7. The project results clearly link to at least one programme result indicator.	5
A.8. Results and main outputs are specified (concretely defined and measurable) and realistic (it is possible to achieve them with given resources). Results and main outputs are in accordance with the selected target group's needs.	5
A.9. The project clearly contributes to the EUSAIR macroregional Strategy	5
A.10. The project makes use of available knowledge and builds on existing results and practices.	3
<b>OPERATIONAL CRITERIA</b>	<b>Max Pts.</b>
B.1. The Lead Partner demonstrates competency in managing EU funded projects or other international projects or can ensure adequate measures for management support.	5
B.2. Project partners demonstrate that they efficiently coordinate activities with all other projects submitted by the same legal entities and that these activities are not redundant or overlapping	3
B.3. The communication approach/tactics chosen are appropriate to reach communication objectives. Communication activities and deliverables are appropriate to reach the relevant target	5

groups and stakeholder* not applicable to Small Scale Projects	
B.4. Coherence of project activities with indicative types of actions and outputs, as per relevant Priority axes. Proposed activities are relevant and lead to the planned main outputs and results	3
B.5. All partners play a defined and active role in the project partnership with clear responsibility (e.g. sharing of tasks is clear, logical, in line with partners' role in the projects and cross-border Cooperation character), and risks and mitigation measures are well described	5
B.6. Time plan is realistic (activities, deliverables and outputs are in a logical time sequence)	3
B.7. All activities demonstrate a clear benefit of the cross-border programme area and for each participating partner (such as e.g. through activities taking place in each territory)	3
B.8. The project is mature, allowing its smooth realization (i.e. stage of completion of the administrative procedures, etc.)	3
B.9. The overall budget is clear and realistic and reflects real partners' involvement (it is balanced). To what extent does the project budget demonstrate value for money?	5
B.10. Financial allocation per expenditure category is in line with the work plan of activities. To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate? * not applicable to Small Scale Projects	5
B.11. To what extent is the budget of the proposed activities well-justified and explained?	3
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA</b>	Max Pts.
C.1. How will the project outputs be further used and how the sustainability will be ensured once the project has been finalised? If applicable, how the project envisages durability of relevant project outputs?	5
C.2. Project main outputs are applicable and replicable also outside of the current partnership (transferability) – if not, it is justified	5
C.3. The project makes a positive contribution to sustainable development. The project makes a positive contribution to equal opportunities and non- discrimination. The project contributes to equality between man and woman.	3
	Max Pts.
<b>STRATEGIC CRITERIA</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL CRITERIA</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TARGETED CRITERIA</b>	MaxPts.
D.1. The project objective and expected result directly address one of the missing topics for the specific objective, identified in the Call. Relevant activities and outputs are in place to achieve these objectives.	5

D.2. The project activities include relevant capitalization actions, aimed at building up synergies and avoid overlapping with other projects and initiatives, which are precisely identified. The project has specified the measures to be adopted to avoid overlapping with existing projects and initiatives in terms of content/location of interventions.	5
D.3. The project objective and activities are explicitly foreseen in the EUSAIR action plan, the project clearly outlines how these activities are going to be followed up on within the EUSAIR.	3
<b>TOTAL MAXIMUM ADDITIONAL POINTS</b>	<b>13</b>
E.1. JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE CRITERIA: Globally, the project complies with national and regional policies, its actions and outputs precisely address concrete needs of the territories, and it involves a suitable partnership, capable to reach the expected impacts.	20
<b>TOTAL MAXIMUM ADDITIONAL POINTS BY THE JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>133</b>

Scoring system:

	SCALE 0,1 TO 5,0	SCALE 0,1 TO 3,0
<b>4,1 to 5,0 =</b>	The application fulfils the given criterion to an excellent level and the provided information is sufficient, clear and coherent for assessing the criterion.	
<b>3,1 to 4,0 =</b>	The application fulfils the given criterion to a very good level, however, some aspects of the given criterion lack certain clarity or coherence.	
<b>2,1 to 3,0 =</b>	The application fulfils the given criterion to a sufficient level, however, some aspects of the given criterion have not been met fully or not explained in full clarity or detail.	The application fulfils the given criterion to an excellent level and the provided information is sufficient, clear and coherent for assessing the criterion.
<b>1,1 to 2,0 =</b>	The application has serious shortcomings in fulfilling the given criterion and/or the provided information is of low quality.	The application fulfils the given criterion to a sufficient level, however, some aspects of the given criterion have not been met fully or not explained in full clarity or detail.
<b>0,1 to 1,0 =</b>	The application does not fulfil the given criterion.	The application does not fulfil the given criterion.

**If the information required is completely missing the score is 0 (zero).**

The points are scored by the assessors with one decimal number.

The JS will carry out the quality assessment of the project proposals and it will rely on the assistance of the NAs/NIPS of the participating countries and/or on a group of external evaluators carrying out a technical evaluation, where needed.

In addition, as specified in Article 39 of Regulation EU 447/2014, the JMC shall set up a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the selection of operations. Starting from the quality assessment by the JS, the JSC shall make a policy assessment, based on following qualitative policy criteria: "Globally, the project complies with national and regional policies, its actions and outputs precisely address concrete needs of the territories, and it involves a suitable partnership, capable to reach the expected impacts". The JSC may decide to award project

proposals fulfilling this policy criteria most with an additional score of maximum 20 points (from 0 = quality assessment confirmed to 20 = the project proposal fulfils the policy criteria to an excellent level).

The JMC is responsible for the final decision, on the basis of outcomes of the quality assessment.

Based on the outcomes of the quality assessment, after the funding decision a negotiation phase is open, where the JS/MA and the LP optimize project planning, activities and budgets.

## **11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

More information about the content of the CP, the specific conditions for the submission of the project proposals, the assessment and selection procedure, the application package as well as other relevant information are available at [www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu), <http://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/> and [www.mep.gov.me](http://www.mep.gov.me).

## **12. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROCEDURE**

According to the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, responsibility for the administrative procedures of this Call for proposals lays on Puglia Region, in the person of the Director of the Managing Authority Office.

## **13. ENCLOSURES**

- Annex 1: Application package offline
- Annex 2: Small scale projects
- Annex 3: Useful links