

Pre-announcement

Call for project proposals

Capitalisation Small-Scale Projects

Please note that this document is issued by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic on behalf of the participating countries, represented at the Task Force. It is provided only for information purposes, while the legally binding version of the call for project proposals shall be published in the Official Bulletin of Puglia Region as Managing Authority (BURP). The Managing Authority reserves the right to modify the terms of this pre-announcement, in agreement with the Monitoring Committee.

The official publication of the call is **planned upon programme adoption, indicatively expected by June 2022**, and it will be open for 90 calendar days from the day of publication (until 11:59 AM of the 90th day, including the day of publication). The official publication at <http://beta.regione.puglia.it/bollettino-ufficiale> will be also announced at www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu pages, as well as in relevant institutional pages of the organisations concerned.

In order to support **interested partners to look for potential partners**, starting from the publication of this document, partner searches will be published on the programme website, if they include at least a selection of one specific objective, a 500 characters description of the project idea, the type of partners searched, the countries, the contact person email and a consensus on the publication of the data. Only those ideas completely filled in, may be published on the website. For convenience, this form may be used: <https://forms.gle/4e7RP9xcxvvaBgrM9>

INTRODUCTION

The Interreg IPA South Adriatic is a trilateral cross border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) in the 2021–2027 programming period. It widely builds on the results of the previous programme Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020.

As soon as the programme will be adopted by the EU Commission, it is going to be published on the website www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu.

1. CAPITALISATION SMALL-SCALE CALL

Definition of capitalisation

Capitalisation is a **process** put in place to make sure that **valuable results**, previously achieved, are **used or transferred** to other **organisations, locations, sectors, time or other contexts**.

For this call, project partners may capitalise on project results:

- achieved with the same partnership or in the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro in the 2014-20 period;
- achieved with other funds, programmes, initiatives, projects they participated in;
- achieved by the organisation and widely recognised as a good practice, of which evidence of external/independent assessments shall be provided by the partners.

In particular, for type a), in case a proposal is built on results already capitalised in the 2014-2020 capitalisation procedure, the additional added value of transferring these results must be clearly stated.

For type b) and c), the added value of transferring/using these results to a new context must be explained.

Actions financed

For each Specific Objective, applicants shall plan capitalisation actions such as e.g. implementation of thematic masterclasses, peer reviews, demonstration activities, solution-testing activities, live exercise activities, development of “Papers”, describing e.g. the update of the plans/ solutions of the project, the thematic contribution that the project could give to the EUSAIR Flagships, updates of platforms data and operability produced within the project, implementation of study visits to showcase best practices identified and to raise awareness on the topics addressed, implementation of dedicated actions to engage stakeholders and cluster demonstration activities, etc., which are going to be covered by the set of **outputs of the programme-specific simplified cost options**.

In particular for each Specific Objective, please check short overview at

https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/PPT_The_2021-27_Programme_A%20foretaste_rev07022022.pdf

- **S.O. 1.1SMEs**, the actions shall aim at improving the framework conditions for growth and competitiveness of SMEs, incl. micro SMEs.

Further 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/culture/policy/cultural-creative-industries_en

- **S.O. 2.1 Risks**, the actions shall aim at promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience.

Further guidance at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en

- **S.O. 2.2. Biodiversity**, the actions shall aim at enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution, including water, soil and air pollution (such as PM emissions).

Further guidance at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

- **S.O. 2. 3 Energy**, actions shall contribute to promoting energy efficiency.

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

- **S.O. 3.1. Transport:** the actions shall aim at developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility, through soft measures.

Guidance at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en

- **S.O. 4.1. Skills:** The actions shall aim at improving access to and the quality of training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders.

Further guidance at: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/>

- **S.O. 4.2. Inclusive tourism:** shall aim at enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

Guidance at: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/offer_en

- **S.O. 5.1. Governance:** Actions shall aim at enhancing efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, in particular, with a view to solving legal and other obstacles in border regions.

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/>) and EUSAIR flagships (see <https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/2020/06/12/eusair-flagships-all-summed-up/>; <https://etc-eusair-network.eu/data>). The project partners shall clearly outline how these activities are going to be followed up on within the EUSAIR and with the EUSAIR stakeholders, as well as the explain what actions may contribute to the implementation of the EUSAIR flagship projects and how they intend to promote these actions to the EUSAIR actors.

2. PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The overall provisional financial allocation for the 5 priority axes is as follows:

Priority	IPA financing	National Co-financing	Total
1 Smart	824.852,32	175.147,68	1.000.000,00
2 Green	824.852,32	175.147,68	1.000.000,00
3 Conn.	329.940,93	70.059,07	400.000,00
4 Social	824.852,32	175.147,68	1.000.000,00
5 Gover	1.319.763,70	280.236,30	1.600.000,00
TOTAL	4.124.261,58	875.738,42	5.000.000,00

The participating countries represented at the Monitoring Committee shall decide on the final financial allocation before publishing the call.

Co-financing

Even though, at programme level the IPA co-financing rate is 82,49%, following rates are applicable:

- For Italian partners 80%;
- For Albanian & Montenegrin partners 85%.

The Italian national co-financing is guaranteed to all public and private partners.

Albanian and Montenegrin partners shall provide the 15% national co-financing at project level.

Pre-financing

Project partners are entitled to a pre-financing of 30% of the IPA contribution, upon signature of subsidy contract. Offset of the pre-financing occurs in the last joint report. The pre-financing amounts may be transferred to private lead partners only upon a submission of a valid financial guarantee to the Managing Authority. According to the reimbursement principle, the partners shall have financial capacity to advance all costs, which shall be reimbursed upon the foreseen verifications.

Ranking list

The outcome of the project selection shall be a ranking list. The projects at the top of the list will be financed as far as funds are available. The MC reserves the right to approve financing of further projects at the top of the ranking list, e.g. in case financing is made available in the future.

Eligibility rules

Detailed eligibility rules for the expenditures are going to be specified in the programme manual fact sheet.

In particular, this call will only include Small-Scale Projects, which are exclusively financed through simplified cost options (SCOs). The 2014-2020 SCOs (Lump sum for preparation costs, lump sum for workshops and B2Bs) are going to be confirmed, while additional simplified costs, such as ESF-type of standard unit costs for training, Italian FLC flat rates and additional lump sums related to joint models/plans are being developed.

3. PROJECT PARTNERS

Eligibility of partners according to location

In compliance with article 22 of the ETC Regulation, lead partners and project partners must be established in Italy, Albania and Montenegro. Partners having the headquarter outside the Programme area, but a branch office established in these countries, will be eligible for funding, provided that the branch office has full legal capacity (e.g. it is registered, it has sufficient staff, it has a person having full legal responsibility, etc.).

As specified in the Programme, participation of project partners (not lead partners) located in Italian regions outside the programme area is admitted, provided that the actions of these partners demonstrate a real and verifiable benefit for the regions of the programme area.

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;
- Private or public non-profit organisations, established according to the applicable legal framework/law in the respective country.

Partners shall not fulfil exclusion criteria set in the ETC and CPR Regulations (EU) 2021/1059 and 2021/1060.

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

Partnerships

In compliance with article 23 (1) of the ETC Regulation and considering the limited project size, the projects shall involve partners from at least two participating countries, at least one of which shall be a from Italy. Nonetheless, to apply the partnership principle to all territories involved, projects involving partners from all 3 countries may receive additional points, as well as projects involving partners from both Puglia and Molise Regions in Italy.

The total number of partners must not exceed six (6) 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.

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 the partnership

Building on the 2014-2020 experience and in order to encourage potential beneficiaries to strategically plan their participation, each legal entity is allowed to apply as lead partners in maximum one project per specific objective and as partner in maximum two projects per specific objective, i.e. max. 3 projects per S.O. in total, i.e. max. 15 in total.

NGOs

Small-scale projects have demonstrated to be highly suitable for the involvement of organisations such as NGOs, therefore projects involving these types of partners may receive additional points.

4. PROJECT SIZE

Building on the successful experience of the Small-Scale projects financed in the 2014-2020 period, as well as to make it possible to achieve the performance framework targets in 2024, the first call will finance only small scale projects i.e.:

- Total budget of the projects must **not exceed € 200.000** (IPA + National co-financing);
- Projects lasting **maximum 12 months**;
- Projects financed only through **specified simplified cost options**, no real cost.

No minimum budget per partner is required. However, participating project projects shall demonstrate a balanced distribution of tasks and budget among partners.

5. PROJECT DURATION AND PREPARATION LUMP SUM

The project implementation shall not be longer than 12 months, starting from the project start date, set during the contracting procedure. A prolongation of additional 3 months may be approved by the Managing Authority, 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 5.000,00 EUR (IPA and national co-financing) to the lead partner.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The project proposals have to be submitted in one step electronic procedure through the Electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (JeMS). The address of the JeMS 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 the Programme official website www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu.