

Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

of the content of the Annual Implementation Report

Year 2021

(Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION & COMMUNICATION

Although marked by the consequences of the Covid-19 emergency, 2021 was a highly productive year, in which our projects managed to progress, to reach excellent results and to meet the spending targets.

31 out of the 32 Standard Projects funded under the First Call were closed, with full realization of their outputs and many outstanding results in sectors ranging from competitiveness and SMEs, tourism and culture, environment and energy, sustainable transport.

Also noteworthy was the contribution of the 8 Thematic Projects, focused on issues of particular interest for the programme area, which committed themselves to providing solutions for regional and cross-border challenges.

On the other side, the 32 projects (17 Normal + 15 Small Scale) funded under the Targeted Call deployed their full potential and worked on the realization of the expected outputs, animating local communities and territories with their activities. Another four projects from the open ranking list of the Targeted Call were approved in 2021 and started their activities.

Due to Covid-19 safety measures, many initiatives were carried out online, and collaborative tools were adopted for effective project management and communication. However, as the restrictions loosened, the partners started organizing events, live performances, awareness raising initiatives, with active participation of the public.

According to JS evaluation, a total of 656 project outputs were achieved in 2021, and a total of 17 significant project results, contributing to programme results.

Throughout the year, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat provided support to beneficiaries through online meetings and direct assistance, in order to follow the progress of activities, identify strengths and weaknesses of the projects and develop recommendations for any necessary changes.

The Programme Manual was integrated with new factsheets and more guidelines were provided to beneficiaries for project management and communication. The performance framework and de-commitment targets for 2021 were met and the Programme Management and Control system was consolidated and further developed. All documents are available in the programme web portal.

The web portal – <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/> - was continuously enriched with contents referring to both programme and project activities. Websites dedicated to First Call Projects and Thematic Projects were updated with contents referring to activities and results. Websites and webpages dedicated to Targeted Projects were published. Analytics show a growing interest in the web portal and more than 100 thousand visitors from Italy, Albania, Montenegro and other EU and non-EU countries.

In order to strengthen interaction with stakeholders, a newsflash was activated: the Edition 0 was published in April, the Winter edition was sent out in December. Subscribe [here](#) to get updates.

The programme Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/italy.albania.montenegro/> provided daily information and direct interaction with stakeholders and beneficiaries. With over 3.300 followers, and daily publication of posts, it is one of the most active pages among Interreg Programmes.

Two Joint Monitoring Committee meetings were held online, on 28 February and 12 September 2021, to supervise the programme implementation, and discuss aspects related to funded projects. Other technical meetings were held with Programme Authorities to address specific issues.

Webinars and virtual events were organised to support beneficiaries, meet stakeholders, disseminate results and raise awareness about the role of the EU in supporting cooperation across borders. The extensive news coverage shows the interest of the Italian, Albanian and Montenegrin press for project activities and their impact on territories.

The Italy-Albania-Montenegro was among the five Interreg programmes selected by INTERACT for the "Capitalisation Tailored Support", aimed at supporting Interreg programmes in the implementation of capitalisation approaches and promotion of results. The activity started in May 2021 and is still ongoing. The final goal is the drafting of the Programme Capitalisation Plan for 2021-2027, aimed at enhancing the generation of quality results, the selection of good practices and their transfer.

In 2021 an external evaluation process was set up, in order to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme. Through interviews, web surveys, case studies and focus groups, the experts carried out a comprehensive evaluation process, still in progress.

2021 was also crucial for the definition of the 2021-27 Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme. Public consultations were launched and partnership meetings were held in order to gather stakeholders' views on priorities and actions that could be taken to improve community welfare, and the 2021-27 Task Force worked hard to identify territorial needs and joint challenges, and define the Programme strategy. This intense participation process led in September to the final draft of the 2021-27 Cooperation Programme (with the new name "Interreg IPA South Adriatic"), which will be presented to the European Commission. Approval is expected by summer 2022. A foretaste of the programme has been published in the [web portal](#).

Building on all 2021 achievements, we are looking forward to 2022 challenges and opportunities, such as: the closure of almost all Thematic projects, including major investments and of 36 Targeted projects, with the exception of some particular cases, in order to reach the 2022 target; the financing of further projects on top of the score grid of the targeted call and the capitalisation actions procedure, addressed to 1st call beneficiaries, taking resources from projects savings; the second step of the programme evaluation work and the communication of programme results; the approval of the 2021-2027 Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme, the establishment of the 2021-27 Monitoring Committee, and the launch of the first call-

THE PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

- 92 million total budget
- 3 programme countries
- 4 priority axes
- 6 specific objectives
- 76 funded projects at the end of 2021
- 342 partners involved in different projects
- 99% of the funds allocated
- 47% of the funds used by beneficiaries
- 11 projects financed for the benefit of SMEs
- 29 businesses or research centres successfully involved
- 90 new products, services or pilot activities delivered for the benefit of tourism and cultural sectors
- 42 cultural and natural sites valorised
- 13 cross-border creative platforms established
- 30 projects financed for the benefit of the environment
- 173 new products, services or pilot activities delivered for the benefit of the environment
- 174 environmental institutions or users involved
- 7 projects financed for increasing cross border accessibility
- 4 new products, services or pilot activities delivered for an increased accessibility

More info: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/the-programme-in-a-nutshell>

PROJECTS FUNDED AT THE END OF 2021

➤ **FIRST CALL PROJECTS**

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

- **3C4SME** – *Cross-border Cooperation and Competitiveness for SMEs*
- **BRE** – *Business Registry Empowerment*
- **FILA** – *Strengthening and empowering of cross border innovation networks through Fertilization Innovation Labs in Agro-food for improving the connection between research and SMEs (EIP Approach)*
- **HISTEK** – *High Specialized Technicians in Kets*
- **INERRANT** – *INterregional Ecosystem for entRepreneurship, ReseArch and Technology*
- **INNOTOURCLUST** – *Innovative Cross Border Tourism SMEs Cluster*
- **INTERACT 4.0** – *Trilateral EmpoweRment for Change 4.0*

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- **3D IMPACT** – Virtual reality and 3D experiences to IMProve territorial Attractiveness, Cultural heritage smart management and Touristic development
- **ADNICH** – ADriatic Network of artistic production for the development and enhancement of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- **CIRCE** – Common Initiatives to pRomote CinEma across Italy - Albania - Montenegro
- **CO.CO.TOUR** – Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of COastal COmmunities by boosting the eco-museum model aiming at smart and sustainable TOURism management.
- **COMPLICITIES** - COntemporary art Modeling Peripheries for Livable CITIES
- **CROSS BORDER OL** - Cross-border cooperation for sustainable development and tourism, through valorization of rural cultural heritage and conservation of natural asset of areas with ancient olive groves
- **HAMLET** – Highlighting Artisanal Manufacturing, cuLture and Eco Tourism
- **MONET** – culture in MOtion in Adriatic NETwork of Museums
- **NEST** – Networking for Smart Tourism Development
- **OPEN TOURISM** – Cross-border cooperation network for an open-to-innovation tourism
- **P.A.S.T.4FUTURE** – Promoting Accessible and Sustainable Tourism for Future
- **REGLPORTS** – Nautical tourism development and promotion of regional ports
- **TOURNEE** – Theatres for tOURism developmeNt in EuropE
- **WISHFUL** – Ict for Smart Healthcare toUrism

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

- **3 WATCH OUT** – Trilateral model of civil protection: WAys, Tools and CHallenges for Our safety
- **ADRINET** – Adriatic Network for Marine Ecosystem
- **BLUE LAND** – Participatory model for the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and for cross-border habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services Safeguard
- **FLAT** – Flood and landslide assistance and training
- **LASPEH** – Low Adriatic Species and Habitat
- **REEHUB** – Regional Energy Efficiency HUB
- **WELCOME** – WatEr LandsCapes sustainability thrOugh reuse of Marine littEr

PA 4 - Sustainable transport

- **#DYNAMOB 2.0** – Dynamic MOBILITization 2.0
- **ON CLOUD NINE** – cONnecting CLOse and Unexplored Destinations with New INter-Adriatic transport sErVICES
- **PORTS** – Partnership for the Observation and study of new Routes and Transnational Sea-highways
- **SAGOV** – South-Adriatic Connectivity Governance

➤ **THEMATIC PROJECTS**

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

- [FOOD4HEALTH](#) - Sustainable and innovative Agro food and fisheries value chain for MSME's cross-border market
- [PHASE](#) - Promoting eHealth in cross-border Area by Stimulating local Economies
- [SMART ADRIA](#) - SMART ADRIA Blue Growth

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- [3C](#) - Cross-border exchange for the development of Cultural and Creative industries
- [DUE MARI](#) - "DUE MARI" next generation tourism development

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

- [TO BE READY](#) - The flood and Big firE foREst, prediction, forecAst anD emergencY management
- [CrossWater](#) - Integrated Water Management System in crossborder area

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

- [ALMONIT-MTC](#) - Albania, Montenegro, Italy, Multimodal Transport Connectivity

➤ **TARGETED CALL PROJECTS / Normal**

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- [AIDA](#) - Adriatic Identity through Development of Arts
- [EArPieCe](#) - Encoding and Analysing Popular music
- [FAME](#) - Innovative model for young artists cross border laboratory
- [INTERFIDE-CRT](#) - Fostering Interfaith Dialogue and Enhancing Cross-border Religious Tourism
- [RECON](#) - RE-valuation of Cultural-Heritage, Knowledge and Opportunity Network

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

- [ADRIA ALLIANCE](#) - ADRIAtic cross-border ALLIANCE for the promotion of energy efficiency and climate change adaptation
- [AWeS0Me](#) - Agricultural WastE as Sustainable 0 km building MatErial
- [BioTourS](#) - Biodiversity and Tourism Strategy to protect cetaceans
- [CO-CLEAN](#) - CO-designed and implementation of loCal sustainable energy action
- [EFFECTS](#) - EFFective Planning of schools buildings for Environment and ClimaTe changeS
- [LEC](#) - civic energy future: sustainable Local Energy Communities
- [REEHUB PLUS](#) - Regional Energy Efficiency HUB PLUS
- [SMARTPORT](#) - Smart and Sustainable Energy Port
- [SOLAR](#) - Sustainable reduction Of carbon footprint Level in programme AiRports

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

- [CRISIS](#) - Cross-border RiSk management of hazardous materlal tranSportation
- [EFINTIS](#) - Enhancing eFFiciency of the INTermodal transport flows by Improved ict Systems

- [ISACC](#) - Innovative Systems to enhance Antifraud Customs Controls
- [LASTING](#) - Lower Adriatic Sea - Transit Intermodal Networking Grid
- [SuMo](#) - Sustainable Mobility in the Port Cities of the Southern Adriatic Area

➤ **TARGETED CALL PROJECTS / Small Scale**

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

- [LONETA](#) - Local Opportunities for Negative Emission Technologies and their Applications

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- [CASTER](#) - Cycling And Sailing Tourism's Enhancement Roller
- [CAVES](#) - Speleological Tourism Development in the Southern Adriatic Area
- [EXCELLENT](#) - Cross-Border Experience for a Sustainable Tourism Development in the Programme Area
- [EXTRA](#) - Strengthen EXchanges of experiences to enhance quality products and services for sustainable development of Tourism in South Adriatic Region
- [FRIENDS4FAMILY](#) - Alliance between rural areas for family-friendly tourist hospitality
- [NETFOLK](#) Netfolk - New Cross-Border Network about Folk Music in the Southern Adriatic Region
- [REMOTE](#) - places of uRban mEMOry for Tourism dEvelopment
- [ROOTS](#) - Route Of Origins and Troubles

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

- [DE-RESS](#) - Dissemination of the European measures for Renewable Energy Shared and Sustainable: analysis of a practical case
- [ENEA](#) - ENergy Efficiency living IAb
- [Re-sources](#) - Renewable Energy for the Optimization of Resources in Industrial Areas
- [SESC](#) - Smart Energy Community for Smart City

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

- [ECSYT](#) - Enhancing Cooperation and Synergies of Transport in the Southern Adriatic Ports
- [PORTS 4.0](#) - Partnership for the prOmotion of a maRiTIme cross-border Strategy
- [SkEye](#) - Strengthening Key aERospace technologY for smart transport monitoring systems
- [TRADAM](#) - TRansport Assets DAta Management

All information about funded projects is available here: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/projects>.

List of operations: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/official-docs/cooperation-programme>.