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Interreg IPA South Adriatic (Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2021-2027)

National Info Days

Tirana / Podgorica 22 - 23 November 2022

MA/JS of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic

REGIONE PUGLIA

✓ **Working Session by Joint Secretariat:**

– *Mauro Novello, Coordinator,* **The new Programme**

– *Davide Marcianò, Legal officer,* **The First Call**

– *Chiara Campanile, Project officer,* **The intervention logic**

– *Antonio Agrosì, Financial officer,* **Eligibility and SCOs**

– *Fabrizio Errico, TA officer,* **The new JeMS**

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Questions and answers

✓ **Please feel free to make questions:**

- at the end of the working session

✓ **Online:**

- Send questions to: **js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu**
- FAQ document published at

 www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu

 Section: /programme/south-adriatic-2021-27/south-adriatic-calls

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Adopted by the EU Commission on 26 September 2022
Implementing Decision C(2022)6940

Geography 2014-20 > unchanged 2021-27

➢ Italy: Puglia + Molise
➢ Albania & Montenegro
(*whole territory*)

*+ art. 22 ETC flexibility
esp. for Italian Regions

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2021 – 2027 Specific Objectives

PA 1 Smart	PA 2 Green			PA 3 Connected	PA 4 Social		PA 5 Governance
1.1 SMEs	2.1 Risk	2.2 Biodiversity	2.3 Energy	3.1 Intermodality	4.1 Skills	4.2 Inclusive Tourism	5.1 Administrative efficiency

Cross-cutting: Pre-Accession assistance. Cultural heritage / tourism. Security at borders. Digitalisation

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For all Specific Objectives, possible actions

For all Specific Objectives, following possible actions:

1) Public services

2) Digital services

3) Small investments

4) Innovative experimental applications

5) Agreements

6) Joint models / processes

7) Capacity building / trainings

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S.O. 1.1 – Enhancing growth and **competitiveness of SMEs** through joint cross-border actions

Axis 1 – SMARTER EU

S.O. 1.1 **SMEs** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON <u>framework conditions</u> for competitiveness of SMEs incl. MSMEs, e.g.:

- ✓ <u>green tourism</u>, cultural / creative SMEs (e.g. joint artistic productions), health-care (e-health), <u>agro-food, blue economy</u>
- ✓ R&D actions, start-ups, S3 strategies, business advice
- ✓ border-crossing procedures, trademarks, patents, cyber-security, fight against counterfeiting, adoption of EU rules for SMEs, digitalisation

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S.O. 2.1 – Promoting climate change adaptation, **risk prevention** and disaster resilience with joint cross-border actions

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Axis 2 – GREENER EU

S.O. 2.1 **Risks** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON risk management, e.g.:

- ✓ <u>natural risks </u>(floods, droughts, landslide, earthquakes, wildfires, coastal erosion, human/animal/vegetal <u>pandemics</u>, etc.), + artificial risks (oil spills, maritime disasters, etc.)

- ✓ measures targeting specific groups e.g. touristic, cultural industries, etc. or risks at border-crossings, adoption of EU rules on risk management

- ✓ <u>digitalisation in risk management </u>e.g. for monitoring & planning coastal / maritime environment

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S.O. 2.2 - Enhancing **biodiversity**, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution with joint cross-border actions

Axis 2 – GREENER EU

S.O. 2.2 **Biodiversity** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON biodiversity / reducing pollution, e.g.:

- ✓ protection of natural habitats, reducing pollution, promotion of recycling waste & sewage water, while preserving biodiversity

- ✓ management of natural / cultural heritage for <u>green tourism</u>,

- ✓ water resources / landscapes, incl. actions for adopting ICZM & <u>Maritime Spatial Planning</u>

- ✓ adoption of EU rules incl. green deal / digitalisation

S.O. 2.3 – Promoting **energy efficiency** with joint cross-border actions

Axis 2 – GREENER EU

S.O. 2.3 **Energy** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON energy efficiency, e.g.:

- ✓ awareness-raising on CO_2 emissions
- ✓ <u>energy efficiency </u>measures targeting specific sectors (e.g. culture/tourism, construction, <u>public buildings</u>, etc.)
- ✓ security of <u>cross-border energy networks</u>
- ✓ digital tools / processes for energy efficiency
- ✓ integrated energy efficiency plans within RES strategies
- ✓ adoption of EU rules on energy

Axis 3 – MORE CONNECTED EU

S.O. 3.1 - Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and **intermodal** national, regional and local **mobility**, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility, through joint cross-border actions

Axis 3 – MORE CONNECTED EU

S.O. 3.1 **Intermodality** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON sustainable intermodal connectivity, e.g.:

- ✓ <u>maritime, air, rail / road</u> sustainable transports, soft mobility, multimodal transport links, e.g. targeted to tourism,
- ✓ ports security/ security at border-crossing & customs, adopting EU rules on transports / <u>digitalisation</u>
- ✓ accessibility of peripheral, areas / urban-coastal areas
- ✓ top-down projects of strategic importance

Axis 4 – MORE SOCIAL EU

S.O. 4.1 - Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, **training** and life long learning through cross-border actions

S.O. 4.1 **Skills** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON inclusive training, e.g.:

- ✓ professional trainings or capacity building e.g. in touristic, cultural / creative sectors,

- ✓ professional / entrepreneurial / digital skills

- ✓ inclusion of vulnerable social groups (incl. unemployed, migrants, NEETs, etc.)

- ✓ efficiency of cross-border labour markets, recognition of professional qualification / adoption of EU rules on welfare, labour, qualification

Axis 4 – MORE SOCIAL EU

S.O. 4.2 - Enhancing the role of culture and **tourism** in economic development, **social inclusion** and social innovation, through cross-border actions

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S.O. 4.2 **Inclusive tourism** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON e.g.:

✓ making tourism / culture more social and more <u>economically resilient</u>, <u>primarily</u> targeting <u>vulnerable social groups</u> / local communities

✓ management of cultural / natural assets sustainable, more diversified, valorised, e.g. through cultural routes

✓ digitalisation, capacity building, services & new opportunities for vulnerable groups, adoption of EU rules

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S.O. 5.1 – 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

S.O. 5.1 **Governance** ACTIONS FOCUSED ON, e.g.:

- ✓ institutional capacity e.g. to manage / promote cultural, natural heritage, creative industries,

- ✓ increasing mutual trust, improved management of border-crossing points, <u>adoption of EU rules</u>, or enhancing e-government & statistic data collection/ accessibility

- ✓ Identification / mitigation of <u>administrative / legal obstacles</u> or mainstreaming interventions

2014-2020 approach with beneficiaries, who participate in calls with project proposals, is confirmed :

Public authorities (ministries, regions, local, municipalities etc.)	Public bodies (agencies, bodies governed by public law, Universities, research centres, etc.)	Social partners (Chambers of commerce, Unions, NGOs, associations, foundations, etc.)

Their target groups, using/benefitting from their actions:
- ✓ SMEs, public, private and non-profit organisations
- ✓ Citizens

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Budget

Axes	IPA Fund	T.A.	National	Total
1 Smart	13.361.773	1.457.782	3.146.758	17.966.314
2 Green	18.679.892	2.037.994	4.399.199	25.117.086
3 Connected	10.213.205	1.114.271	2.405.256	13.732.732
4 Social	12.134.980	1.323.938	2.857.843	16.316.761
5 Governed	6.043.317	659.332	1.423.229	8.125.877
TOTAL	60.433.167	6.593.317	14.232.285	81.258.769

Type of projects

1. **Small-scale projects**: up to 200.000 €, financed only through simplified cost options (SCOs)

    - Call November 2022 – 5 Mio.

2. **Standard projects**: 1,5-2 mio. €, many SCOs

    - Call expected first half of 2023 ± 39 Mio.

3. **Strategic projects**: Top-down, on-going developed by MC, supported by Seed Facility experts – 25 Mio.

4. **Small-scale projects:** Call 2025 – 5 Mio.

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Operations of strategic importance

Strategic projects being developed:

- ✓ Project 1.1 CREATIVE South Adriatic

- ✓ Project 2.1 RESILIENT South Adriatic

- ✓ Project 3.1 MORE CONNECTED South Adriatic

- ✓ Project 4.1 SMART & COMPETITIVE South Adriatic

- ✓ Project 5.1 GOOD GOVERNED South Adriatic

Key features of the First Call

- ✓ Widely builds on 14-20 targeted call

- ✓ Extensive concept of **Capitalisation** i.e. making sure of the use/transfer of results
  - achieved in projects of the 2014-20 Programme*;
  - achieved with other funds, programmes, initiatives, projects, geographical contexts;
  - achieved by the organisation + widely recognised as a good practice.

  * additional steps required for already capitalized projects

- ✓ S.O. 5.1: joint and innovative solutions possible

Key features of the First Call

✓ **Small-scale projects** (Simplified cost options only, 200.000 €, 1 year, new SCOs proposed)

✓ On-going **partner search**, see website

✓ **Additional points** for: NGOs, EUSAIR, capitalization, partners from 3 countries & from the 2 IT Regions

✓ Co-financing **20% IT** (FdR bublic+private)**, 15% AL/ME**

✓ Pre-financing **30% + 5.000 €** preparation

✓ Max. no. partners **5**, + associate

✓ Max. no. projects/p **8 as LP, 16 PP**

Financial allocation of the First Call

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.	494.940,00	105.060,00	600.000,00
4 Social	824.852,32	175.147,68	1.000.000,00
5 Gover	1.154.860,00	245.140,00	1.400.000,00
TOTAL	**4.124.261,58**	**875.738,42**	**5.000.000,00**

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Updated procedure: Relevance filter

✓ Learning from best practices of Interreg programmes such as CENTRAL EU: **RELEVANCE FILTER**

✓ **GOAL**: To make assessment more effective, <u>focusing on STRATEGIC RELEVANCE,</u> instead of fulfillment of administrative formalities

✓ Full application submit -1 step, 2 steps assessment:

    1) Focused on filtering **most relevant projects**

    2) Assessment of the entire Application Form

Relevance filter steps

1. Lead App submits whole AF + annexes
2. JeMS automatic checks (e.g. no. of partners, countries)
3. JS checks existence of signed self-declaration (if missing, rejection)
4. JS + NIPs apply RF to limited part of the AF (24 pts.)
5. SC applies territorial criteria (5 pts.)
6. MC approves final RF score + min. pts for full assessment
7. Only **most relevant** projects FULL eligibility and quality, entire AF, all criteria (100 pts.)
8. SC (5 pts.), MC final score

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PROGRAMME APPROACH TO CRITERIA

Learning from best practices Interact HIT selection criteria + some programme-specific

- ✓ **Strategic** criteria
  (relevance / partners /capitalization)

- ✓ **Operational** criteria
  (relevance / partners / logic / finance / capitalization)
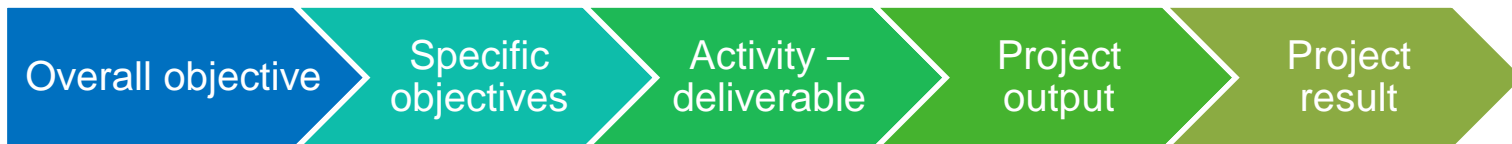
Transition 2014-20 to 2021-27 MANUAL

- ✓ To ensure a smooth transition: **Step-by-step manual development**

- ✓ First three chapters on key/urgent issues:

    a. Intervention logic

    b. Eligibility rules

    c. Simplified cost options

- ✓ Not from scratch: Old manual still applicable, in the principles / ratio / strategy / still valid rules of the Regulations

New Intervention Logic

✓ Check programme intervention logic & performance framework

✓ Phases for developing project intervention logic:

Overall objective → Specific objectives → Activity – deliverable → Project output → Project result

Warning on
- S.O.
- RCO
- RCR
- Actions

Check **examples in the factsheet 1.1 of SA Programme Manual**

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Phase 1 : Setting the overall objective

✓ Project objective – linked to 1 Programme S.O

✓ Clear causal link with RESULT / challenge / change intended

✓ Describe concrete changes intended of given starting situation

Phase 2 : Setting specific objectives

- ✓ Limited number of project specific objectives

- ✓ **1 specific objective – 1 WP** (limit number)

- ✓ S.O. direct contribution to overall objective

- ✓ S.O. associated to 0, 1 or more COMMUNICATION objectives

- ✓ **Only for SSP**: recommended only 1 S.O. – 1 WP

Phase 3 : Setting activities / actions in WPs

- ✓ WP outlines **activities / actions** supporting achievement of S.O.

- ✓ Needed to measure / monitor progress

- ✓ Select a typology of activity / action out of the **programme types** (use codes in title)

- ✓ Check example in FS 1.1

For SSP the SCO-typical "output" (= reimbursement), may be used as activity-action

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- ✓ Project outputs may be quantified and directly contribute to the **programme output indicators**

- ✓ Same measurement unit (to be aggregated at programme level) : **TARGET max 1 or 2**

- ✓ **SSP output for SCO differs from project output !**

✓ Project result indicator link to programme result indicator

✓ **Each Programme output indicator has only one fixed result indicator**

✓ Max 2 results per project aligned with programme results (same measurement unit)

Eligibility rules

✓ Based on 2014-20 eligibility rules, **updated** according to new 2021-27 Regulations

- Staff

- Office and administration

- Travel and accommodation

- External experts and services

- Equipment

- Infrastructure and works

Eligibility rules: time-wise eligibility

✓ Project preparation period

✓ Project implementation period

✓ Project closure period

Eligibility rules: type of partners

✓ Public bodies*

✓ Bodies governed by public law

✓ Non-profit organisations

incl. International organisations

Eligibility rules: NEW aspects

- ✓ Eligibility outside the programme area (simplified)

- ✓ VAT for operations < 5 Mio. (simplified)

- ✓ Travel/accommodation SCO 15% FR

- ✓ Possibility to use 40% FR

- ✓ SSUC for staff as a general rule, only justified exceptions

Simplified cost options

- ✓ Shifting focus of control from documents to **OUTPUTS**

  WARNING: calculation methodologies not yet audited + not incl. in appendix, if needed, projects shall replace/adapt, assisted by MA/JS

- ✓ Informal dialogue with AA started

- ✓ Checking external expert support

- ✓ Until signature of subsidy: APPROVED by EC

Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

2021 – 2027 additional SCOs:

- ✓ ALL Regulation off-the-shelf SCOs to be used (except FR 20% staff cost)

- ✓ **+ New SCOs** calculated on historical/statistical data 2014-20

  - standard scale of unit costs **SSUC staff** (3 sets per country/3 typologies of beneficiaries/3 different staff roles), as a general rule (exceptions if justified)

  - 2% FR for Italian FLC costs

Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

- ✓ **Lump sums:** binary approach **0% or 100%**
- ✓ **Standard scales of unit costs SSUC:** quantified activities, input, outputs, results multiplied by SSUC in advance (modulated)
- ✓ For **soft projects** (e.g. R&I) high staff costs (>70%) & limited need of external experts/equipments:

SSUC Staff Cost

40% Other off the shelf

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Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

✓ For projects with investment or outsourced activities:

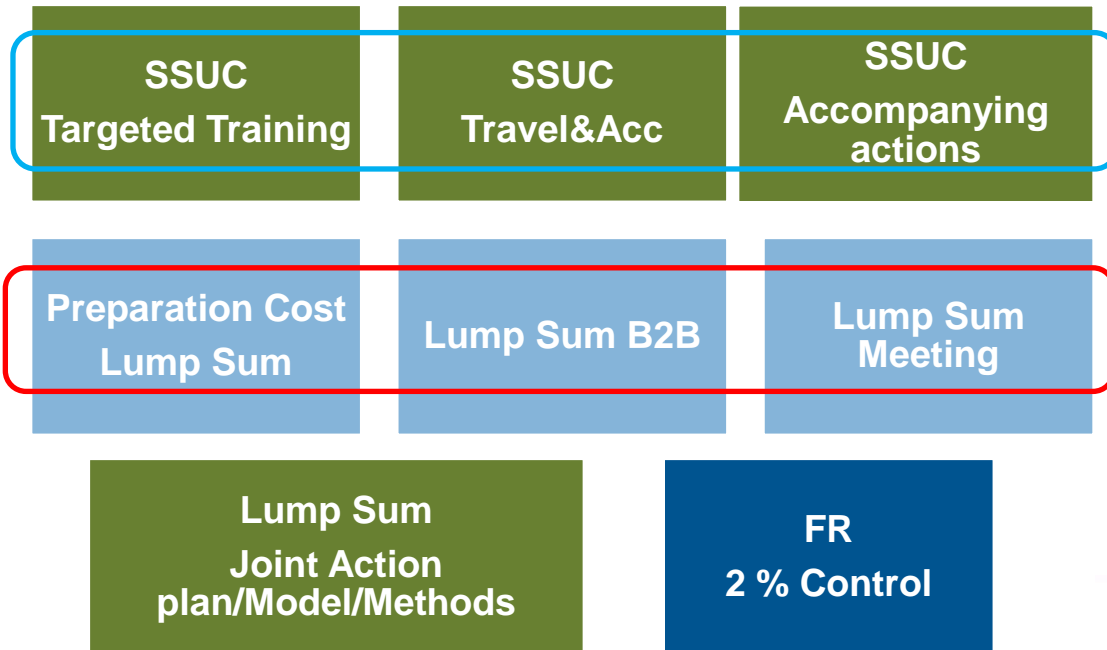|		
Staff Cost SSUC	Infrastructures &Works Real Cost	External Expertise Real Cost
Equipment Real Cost	FR 15% O&A OTS	FR 15% Travel&Acc OTS
FLC FR 2%	Preparation Cost LS	Closure Cost LS

Management verifications:

✓ Control of **SSUC for staff** :

1. Correct assignment to one Functions/ Roles
2. Presence of project assignment, complete time-sheet (avoid double-funding)
2. Correct application of calculated cost
3. Worked hours < annual ceiling (1,720 hours)

✓ Control AL, ME centralized, IT de-centralized:
   ONLY 2% FLAT RATE FOR FLC

Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

Small-scale projects: max 200.000 €, financed **only through SCOs**

SSUC Targeted Training	SSUC Travel&Acc	SSUC Accompanying actions

Preparation Cost Lump Sum	Lump Sum B2B	Lump Sum Meeting

2014-2020

Lump Sum Joint Action plan/Model/Methods	FR 2 % Control

Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

Targeted Training SSUC

✓ VET systems needs of qualified staff + entrepreneurial capacity

✓ Depending on length of module & country **SSUCs for Travel&Accomodation SSUC**

✓ Connected to Accompanying actions & Targeted Training, for cross-border activities

Accompanying actions SSUC

✓ technical-managerial skills, transfer of skills from idea into real innovative companies

✓ Targeting individuals (unemployed/employed, already company or not), grouped into at least 4 persons

Simplified costs & Small-scale projects: 2021-2027 new SCOs

Lump Sum for Joint Action plan/Model/Methods

✓ E.g. joint models, management, procedures, innovative applications, tools, decision-making, strategic plans, feasibility studies, agreements or a combination of these

✓ Shared by beneficiaries or by target groups of different territories

✓ Aimed at simplifying, harmonizing or making procedures / processes effective across the borders.

✓ Paid only to partners per country of partner, who contributes

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Contacts

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