

Final Conference
“Additive Manufacturing: Lessons Learnt & Perspectives
in the IPA Cross-Border Area”

29th May 2025

Tirana International Hotel - Sheshi Skënderbej 8, Tirana 1001, Albania

9h30 Registration of participants	
Welcome greetings	
10h00	Welcome speech and the Government's intention for Additive Manufacturing in Albania - Edvin Prenc, Head of Proeksport Albania Association - Anxhela Bushati, Director of Business Promotion Policies at Minister of Economy, Culture, and Innovation - Albana Zykaj, Representative from AIDA AGENCY - Head of SME-S & Export Sector Directory of SME-S & Projects
SESSION 1	
10h30	Potential of AMTECH
Contents and inputs	Project partners' introduction of their objective and motivation for participating in the project consortium (IMAST, PEA, IEC TEHNOPOPOLIS, SIMOLISE).
Expected Output	Participants are familiar with consortium motivation and results that brought innovation through project implementation in the region.
SESSION 2	
11h00	Local capacity development and the role of universities - Prof. Ermira Shehi, Head of Textile and Fashion Department of Polytechnic University of Tirana
Contents and Inputs	Experience and lessons learned from existing IPA projects: • Concrete examples from cross-border cooperation that have used AM • Challenges in implementation (infrastructure, training, legislation) • Successes and failures: what worked and what didn't
Expected Output	Participants will get information from Academia point of view on technical challenges, advantages and opportunities of AM processes.
11h30-11h50 COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 3	
11h50	The role of cross-border cooperation in technological innovation - Edvin Prenc, The chairman of Pro-Eksport Albania
Contents and inputs	The presentation will focus on Building common platforms for technological exchange, EU policies and financial support for AM. It will also present the key outcomes of the AMTECH project in Albania, illustrating how cross-border cooperation has contributed to regional development.
Expected output	Participants will gain a clearer understanding of how cross-border cooperation fosters technological innovation. They will become familiar with relevant EU policies and financial instruments supporting Advanced Manufacturing (AM), enabling them to identify new opportunities for international collaboration and funding within this strategic sector.
SESSION 4	
12h20	Regional Impact - Mr. Elidon Avrami, Vice CEO of DBS GROUP

Contents and inputs	The presentation will focus on Created local innovation ecosystems with sustainable economic impact, Increases employment of a person and talent in the region, Increases trust between border communities, connecting them with common goals.
Expected output	Participants will learn how local innovation ecosystems can boost regional employment and economic sustainability, while also strengthening trust and cooperation between cross-border communities.

SESSION 5	
12h50	Outcomes and Key Lessons from the AMTECH Project – Montenegro Perspective - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis, Montenegro
Contents and inputs	An overview of Montenegro's role in the AMTECH project, including key actions, local engagement, and cross-border cooperation results. The focus will be on innovation support and lessons learned for future initiatives.
Expected output	Participants will discover Montenegro's contributions and takeaways from the AMTECH project, including key actions that supported local innovation, successful cross-border cooperation experiences, and strategies to further enhance Montenegro's role in the advanced manufacturing sector.
13h20-14h10 LUNCH BREAK	
SESSION 6	
14h10	Concrete benefits from cooperation - Donika Mici, Ceo of Donniana, Vice President of Pro-Eksport Albania
Contents and inputs	Summary of how additive manufacturing (AM) combines and benefits from collaboration.
Expected output	The speaker will raise awareness among participants about the potential of additive manufacturing technologies and focus on the benefits of collaboration.
SESSION 7	
14h40	Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing New Technologies - Etleva Laro, Ceo of Prodyn
Contents and inputs	The speaker will focus on Challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in adopting additive manufacturing, Opportunities for increasing competitiveness and innovation through these technologies.
Expected output	The speaker will raise awareness of participants on the industrial impact of additive manufacturing technologies.
SESSION 8	
15h10	Policies and Institutional Support for New Technologies - Greg Andoni, Lecturer, POLIS University Department of Art and Design Tirana and Owner of GrAnD creative industries.
Contents and inputs	The speaker will focus on The role of public policies and financial support in the spread of additional production, Initiatives and programmes supporting technological innovation in the IPA region
Expected output	Participants will understand the integration and role of public policies and financial support in the spread of complementary production and their benefits.
SESSION 9	
15h40	Outcomes and Key Lessons from the AMTECH Project – Molise Perspective - Sviluppo Italia Molise
Contents and inputs	The presentation will outline Molise's main contributions to the AMTECH project, focusing on actions to support local innovation, collaboration experiences, and lessons learned to strengthen future initiatives.
Expected output	Participants will gain insights into Molise's achievements and future opportunities for innovation and cross-border collaboration in advanced manufacturing.

SESSION 10	
16h10	Presentation of the Joint Action Plan - IMAST – High tech District on Engineering of composite materials polymers and structures
Contents and inputs	IMAST will present the Joint Action Plan aimed at strengthening SME skills in additive manufacturing through a cross-border collaborative network. The plan includes strategic directions and a non-binding agreement between industry and R&D actors to share expertise and promote innovation.
Expected output	Participants will understand the purpose and structure of the Joint Action Plan and how it supports cross-border cooperation and SME competitiveness in additive manufacturing.
SESSION 11	
16h40	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
Contents and inputs	The session will include the signing of a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to promote cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint innovation in the field of Additive Manufacturing.
Expected output	Participants will witness a shared commitment to future cooperation and joint innovation efforts in the AM sector.
17h00-17h10 Closing remarks 17h10 End of the meeting	