

# A Guide<sup>to</sup> EU Funding the local perspective



**BASHKITË PËR NË EVROPE**  
Një projekt i financuar nga BE

# A Guide<sup>to</sup> EU Funding the local perspective

## Author's right

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# 1

## Introduction

### **Dear Reader,**

The EU funded project “Municipalities for Europe”, has the pleasure to introduce you to some of the important financial instruments established by the European Union, from which various Albanian target groups can benefit, but mostly the Local Government Units “**The Municipalities**”, to which this brochure is addressed.

This publication will guide you through IPA “the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance” as well as to some of the European Union `programmes in which Albania participates. These programmes and the funding opportunities they offer are briefly described here in this booklet, but detailed information is available on the European Commission’s website.

EU funding opportunities prove the added value of the EU budget in a number of fields, from research, employment, regional development and cooperation to education, tourism, culture, environment, humanitarian aid and energy, local and rural development, among many others.

We hope this guide will help you get the basics on where to apply and get EU funding for your projects.

## 2 General Overview of the EU financial assistance in the Western Balkans

The most well known funding instrument of the European Union in the Western Balkans is the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance, known also as IPA Funds. IPA has been active as of 2007. **From January 2007 onwards, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) replaces a series of European Union programmes and financial instruments for candidate countries or potential candidate countries, namely PHARE, PHARE CBC, ISPA, SAPARD, CARDS and the financial instrument for Turkey.**

Currently, the Western Balkans and other IPA beneficiary countries are under the **IPA II perspective 2014-2020.**

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries' with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region. For the period 2007-2013 IPA had a budget of around € 11.5 billion, while its successor, IPA II is dedicating € 11.7 billion for the period 2014-2020.

### Current beneficiaries are:

**Albania,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,  
Kosovo,  
Montenegro,  
Serbia,  
Turkey.**

The most important novelty of IPA II is its strategic focus. Country Strategy Papers are the specific strategic planning documents made for each beneficiary for the 7-year period. These will provide for a stronger ownership by the beneficiaries through integrating their own reform and development agendas.

IPA II targets reforms within the framework of pre-defined sectors. These sectors cover areas closely linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, rule of law or growth and competitiveness. These sectors approach promotes structural reform that will help transform a given sector and bring it up to EU standards. It allows a move towards a more targeted assistance, ensuring efficiency, sustainability and focus on results.

IPA II also allows for a more systematic use of sector budget support. Finally, it gives more weight to performance measurement: indicators agreed with the beneficiaries will help assess to what extent the expected results have been achieved.

## 3 EU Financial Support to Albania

Albania is one of the beneficiary countries from the Instrument of pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and this support has been continuing as of 2007, when the IPA I initiated to be active.

### 3.1 The Country Strategy paper and the Priorities of the support

This Country Strategy Paper (the Strategy Paper) sets out the **priorities for EU financial assistance** for the period 2014-2020 to support Albania on its path to accession. It translates the political priorities set out in the enlargement policy framework into key areas where financial assistance is most useful to meet the accession criteria.

**Funding allocation 2014-2020 dedicated to Albania amounts to € 649.4 million.**

The **priority sectors** for funding in this period are the following:

**Democracy & governance:** Strengthening democratic institutions; reforming the civil service and public service delivery; better economic governance; improving public financial management; empowering civil society (e.g. non-state, voluntary organisations).

**Rule of law & fundamental rights:** Independent, efficient judiciary; helping police fight organised crime; tackling corruption; respecting human rights conventions.





**Environment & climate action:** Alignment with EU law and standards; better treatment of waste and water; controlling air pollution.

**Transport:** Better infrastructure and regional connectivity; improved road safety; increased interoperability (cross-border technical compatibility).

**Competitiveness & innovation:** Supporting business competitiveness; greater market integration; improving the business environment; developing tourism.

**Education, employment & social policies:** Providing effective vocational training; better employment services and labour market policy; inclusion of vulnerable people; efficient health and social services.

**Agriculture & rural development:** More competitive farming and food sector; application of food safety standards; better quality of life in rural areas.

**Regional & territorial cooperation:** Promoting regional networks, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations; encouraging sustainable local development in border areas.

The main Strategic Document that Albania has in place as regards the financial support from the European Union (including priorities, modalities of implementation and allocation) is the Country Strategy Paper (CSP).

The Country Strategy Paper for Albania can be downloaded here:



[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key\\_documents/2014/20140919-csp-albania.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2014/20140919-csp-albania.pdf)

In order for properly implementing the EU financial assistance, Albania and the European Commission have concluded in 2015 the Framework Agreement, which stipulated the arrangements for implementation of Union Financial Assistance to the Republic of Albania under the Instrument of pre-Accession Assistance.

## 3.2 The Framework Agreement

The basic legal document that lays down the principles for cooperation between Albania and the European Commission, in the field of IPA implementation is the Framework Agreement 2014-2020. The Framework Agreement is the **basis for establishing the necessary structures and authorities** in Albania for managing IPA assistance. The Framework Agreement determines the conditions for sound financial management of the EU assistance, as well as describes the respective obligations regarding the proper implementation of IPA funded projects.

The **Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the European Commission on the Rules for Co-Operation Concerning EC -Financial Assistance to the Republic Albania in the Framework of the Implementation of the Assistance under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)** was **signed in February 2015** and ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania through the Law No. 37/2015, dated 9.4.2015. The current Framework Agreement has 9 Sections and is composed of 66 pages (without Annexes).

According to the Framework Agreement (Article 6, Principle of Ownership), the ownership of the programming and implementation of IPA II assistance lies primarily with the IPA II beneficiary. FWA explains that the IPA II beneficiary (Albania) **shall appoint a National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC)**, who shall be the main counterpart of the Commission for the overall process of: strategic planning, coordination of programming, monitoring of implementation, evaluation and reporting of IPA II assistance. According to the Framework Agreement, the NIPAC shall be a high-ranking representative of the government or the national administration of the IPA II beneficiary with the appropriate authority. In case of Albania, the National IPA Coordinator is, ex-officio, is the **Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs**.

The Framework Agreement can be downloaded here:



<http://historiku.integrimi.gov.al/al/ministria/baza-ligjore/marveshje/marveshje-kuader-rregullat-e-zbatimit-te-asistences-financiare-te-be-se-per-shqiperine-ne-kuader-te-instrumentit-per-asistencen-e-para-anetaresimit-ipa-ii>

# 4

## Territorial Cooperation policy area and regional cooperation from the Albanian perspective

In the period 2014-2020, the European Union is financing a number of programmes for **cross border territorial cooperation (CBC)**. The cooperation aims at promoting reconciliation and good neighbouring relations and fostering sustainable local development through increasing chances for improving prosperity in remote and rural border areas. Cross-border programmes seek to address common challenges in the fields of economic competitiveness, social inclusion, protection of environment and cultural heritage and promotion of tourism.

Albania also takes part in cross-border programmes with EU Member States and transnational and regional programmes, which are be funded with contributions from both the *European Regional Development Fund* and IPA II. This is an opportunity for the Albanian applicants (e.g. regional and local institutions, civil society organisations, universities, etc.) *to practice with rules and procedures of territorial cooperation initiatives and extend the network of potential partners for regional cooperation activities.*

Specifically, Albania participates in three IPA II cross-border programmes with other IPA II beneficiaries, notably Montenegro, Kosovo\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As regards programmes with Member States, Albania participates in a trilateral crossborder programme with Italy and Montenegro and in a bilateral programme with Greece. Each of the CBC programmes with Member States focus on a maximum of four thematic priorities.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

During the period 2014-20, Albania continues to participate in the Mediterranean **transnational programme** and has also joined the new Adriatic-Ionian programme (ADRION) and BalkanMED. Both programmes have a rather broad geographical outreach, including several countries, and cover the entire territory of Albania as eligible area for funding.

The **Albanian applicants** have started to build contacts and networks with international partners under the previous programme. Under the 2014-2020 programmes, the share of participation of Albanian applicants in successful initiatives is increased. The European Union has also adopted a Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR).

## 5 Introduction of all the 8 Programmes where Albania participates during IPA II

During IPA II (2014-2020) perspective, Albania is participating in the following territorial cooperation Programmes:



An introduction for each of them will be shown below along this section.

## 5.1 Interreg IPA CBC Greece-Albania



Overall Programme budget (including co-financing rate):  
**54.076.734**

### Eligible Area:

*In Greece:* Regional Units of Grevena, Kastoria, Florina, Arta, Thesprotia, Ioannina, Preveza, Zakynthos, Kerkyra, Kefallinia and Lefkada,

*In Albania:* the Region of Vlorë, the Region of Gjirokastër, the Region of Korçë and the Region of Berat.



## PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

- **Priority Axis 1:** Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure.

### **Specific Objectives:**

**1.1** Increase the capacity of cross-border infrastructure in transport, water and waste management.

**1.2** Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

**1.3** Increase energy efficiency and the use of RES.

**1.4** Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires.

- **Priority Axis 2:** Boosting the local economy.

### **Specific Objectives:**

**2.1** Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross-border area.

**2.2** Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness.

### **Management Structures:**

**The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)**, is set up by the programme's participating countries on an equal basis, in order to oversee the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the cross-border programme. The JMC approves the list of successful projects.

**The Managing Authority (MA)**, responsible for managing and implementing the Cross-border Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and for carrying out the functions set out in the EU Regulations. The Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes of the Ministry of Economy, Development, and Tourism, in Thessaloniki, Greece is designated as the Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA II CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020".

Contact detail: [interreg@mou.gr](mailto:interreg@mou.gr)



**The Joint Secretariat (JS)** assists the Managing Authority, National Authority / Operating Structure, the Joint Monitoring Committee and when appropriate the Audit Authority and Certifying Authority in carrying out their respective duties. The Joint Secretariat is located in Thessaloniki and its contact address is the following: [jts\\_gral@mou.gr](mailto:jts_gral@mou.gr). The JS is the main contact body for the applicants and beneficiaries.

The Joint Secretariat has an **Antenna Office** which serves as an Info Point office for applicants and beneficiaries, located in the city of Saranda (Albania). The Antenna Office acts under the responsibility of the Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Contact point within MEFA: [gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al](mailto:gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al).

Additionally, in Albania operates also **the First Level Control (FLC)** office which verifies and confirms the expenditures of the Albanian beneficiaries. The contact address within the FLC Office is the following: [briz.musaraj@integrimi.gov.al](mailto:briz.musaraj@integrimi.gov.al)

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of Interreg IPA CBC Greece-Albania Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities (Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with at least one greek partner. Currently the Programme has launched two calls for proposals, and another one is expected to be launched within 2018.

Programme website: <http://greece-albania.eu/>

Call for proposals are announced here:



## 5.2 IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020

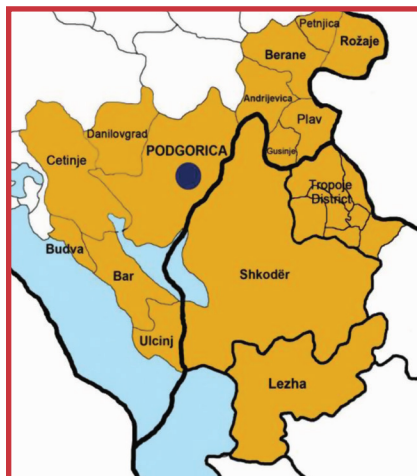
The overall **Programme budget** amounts to 13,7 Mln Euro, including co-financing.



**The overall objective** of the programme is to promote/strengthen good neighbor relations and socioeconomic development of the border regions, through valorizing its touristic potentials, an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic development, with respect for its common cultural and natural heritage.

This will be achieved through joint projects that fall within the following **Programme thematic priorities (TP)**:

- **TP1:** Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage;
- **TP2:** Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- **TP3:** Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border;



Programme **Specific Objectives** within the Programme are:

- The competitiveness of the tourism sector is enhanced by the economic valorization of the cultural and natural heritage;
- The protection of environmental resources in lake and alpine areas is furthered;
- Employability and social inclusion is fostered;
- The effective, efficient, transparent and timely implementation of the programme and awareness raising is ensured.

The programme area for the IPA Cross-Border Programme between Montenegro and Albania covers a territory of 11,970 km<sup>2</sup> with a total population of about 749,257 inhabitants.

### **The eligible area**

*In Montenegro* covers municipalities: Andrijevića, Berane, Plav, Gusinje, Petnjica and Rožaje; Podgorica, Cetinje, Danilovgrad, Budva, Bar and Ulcinj.

*In Albania* includes the regions of Shkodra and Lezha and the municipality of Tropoja.

### **Programme Bodies**

#### **Contracting Authority**

The contracting authority for the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020 is the Ministry of Finance, namely the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU assistance.

#### **Operating Structures**

*The Montenegrin Operating Structure* is comprised of the Cross-Border Cooperation Body (CBC Body) and Contracting Authority. The first is located at Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro and the last in the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU assistance Funds (CFCU).

The Albanian Operating Structure is comprised of the CBC Body in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The Control Body is an integral part of the management and control system and his duties are discharged by the Ministry of Finance.  
(CFCU: [lindita.rizvanolli@financa.gov.al](mailto:lindita.rizvanolli@financa.gov.al)).

### **The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)**

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) is the administrative body responsible for day-to-day management of the Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Montenegro-Albania. The JTS is responsible for assisting potential applicants in partner search, building their capacities in project development, ensure close cooperation of Operating Structures (OS), assist the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) through its secretariat role, monitoring, support and advise to grant beneficiaries, perform information campaigns and other activities aimed at raising public awareness on the CBC programme.

The main office of the JTS is located in Podgorica  
([contact: sanja.todorovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:sanja.todorovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)),  
while the Antenna is located in the city of Shkodra  
([contact: andi.cekaj@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org](mailto:andi.cekaj@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org)).

### **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)**

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) is in charge of monitoring the overall implementation of the programme and it consists of representatives of two beneficiary countries, Montenegro and Albania who have an equal status in the JMC.

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of IPA CBC Montenegro-Albania Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with at least one Montenegrin partner. Currently the Programme has launched one call for proposals, and two others are expected to be launched: one within 2018 and the other during 2019.

**Programme website:** <https://www.cbc-mne-alb.org/>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:

[https://www.cbc-mne-alb.org/calls-for-proposals/  
1st-call-for-proposals/](https://www.cbc-mne-alb.org/calls-for-proposals/1st-call-for-proposals/)

## 5.3 IPA CBC

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia–Albania 2014-2020

The programme for Cross-border cooperation between FYRoM and Albania is implemented under the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, IPA II. The overall **Programme budget** amounts to 13, 7 Mln Euro, including co-financing.



This Cross Border Co-operation Programme covers the period 2014-2020 and it has been designed on the basis of a detailed analysis of the situation in the programme area. The Programme **overall objective** is to boost a more balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development through testing new instruments and solution, learning from other regions and mobilisation and exploitation of endogenous potential.

The Programme concentrates on three **thematic priorities** deriving from needs-opportunity analysis. These are, namely:

- Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (opportunity-driven);
- Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (needs and opportunity-driven) and
- Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (needs driven).

## Eligible areas:

The eligible regions on the territory of Republic of Macedonia include 27 municipalities while on the Albanian side there are with 17 municipalities that fit in the Programme area.

These are listed below:

### *In Republic of Macedonia:*

**Pelagonia region** includes 9 municipalities: Bitola, Demir Hisar, Dolneni, Krivogastani, Krusevo, Mogila, Novaci, Prilep, and Resen;

**Polog region** includes 9 municipalities: Bogovinje, Brvenica, Gostivar, Jegunovce, Mavrovo and Rostusa, Tearce, Tetovo, Vrapciste and Zelino;

**Southwest region** covers 9 municipalities: CentarZupa, Debar, Debarca, Kicevo, Makedonski Brod, Ohrid, Plasnica, Struga and Vevcani.

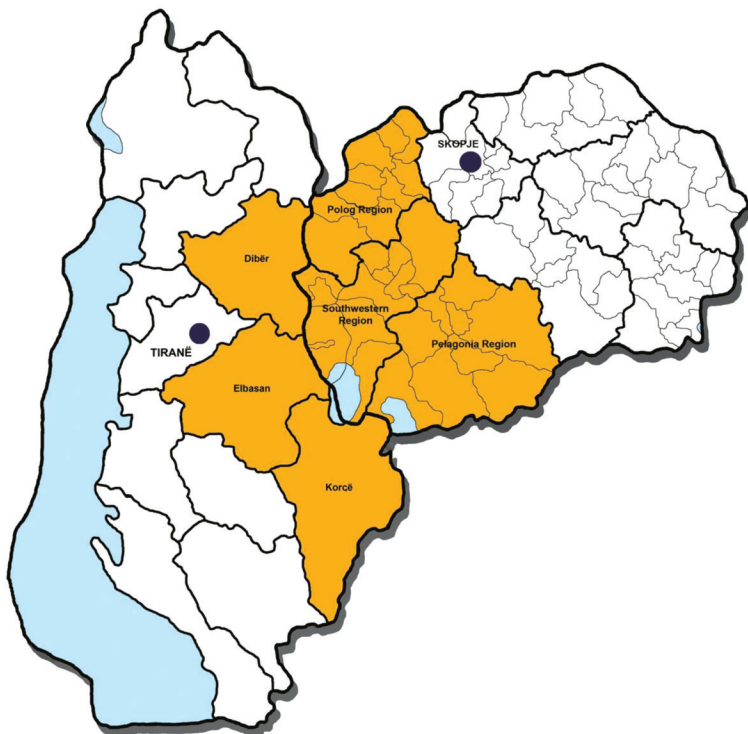
### *In Republic of Albania:*

**Dibra Region** includes the following 4 municipalities: Bulqiza, Klos, Mat and Diber;

**Elbasan Region** covers the following 7 municipalities: Belsh, Cerriku, Elbasan, Gramshi, Librazhdi, Peqini, Perrenjas;

**Korca Region** includes the following 6 Municipalities: Devolli, Korça, Kolonja, Maliq, Pustec and Pogradec.





## **Programme Bodies**

### **Contracting Authority**

The contracting authority for the IPA CBC Programme Macedonia-Albania 2014-2020 is the EU Delegation to Skopje (contact address: [elvis.ali@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:elvis.ali@eeas.europa.eu))

### **Operating Structures**

*The Macedonian Operating Structure* is located in the Ministry for Local Self Government.

*The Albanian Operating Structure* is located in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

## The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) is the administrative body responsible for day-to-day management of the Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Macedonia-Albania. The JTS is responsible for assisting potential applicants in partner search, building their capacities in project development, ensure close cooperation of Operating Structures (OS), assist the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) through its secretariat role, monitoring, support and advise to grant beneficiaries, perform information campaigns and other activities aimed at raising public awareness on the CBC programme.

The main office of the JTS is located in Struga

(contact: [jts\\_mkal@yahoo.com](mailto:jts_mkal@yahoo.com)),

while the Antenna is located in the city of Elbasan

(contact: [marin\\_beluli@yahoo.com](mailto:marin_beluli@yahoo.com))

## Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) is in charge of monitoring the overall implementation of the programme and it consists of representatives of two beneficiary countries, Macedonia and Albania who have an equal status in the JMC.

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of IPA CBC FYR of Macedonia-Albania Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with at least one Macedonian partner. Currently the Programme has launched one call for proposals, and two others are expected to be launched: one within 2018 and the other during 2019.

**Programme website:** <http://ipacbc-mk-al.net/>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:



<http://ipacbc-mk-al.net/calls-for-proposals/1-st-call/application-stage/>

## 5.4 IPA CBC Albania – Kosovo 2014-2020

**The Programme overall objective** is to strengthen good neighbourly relations and foster environmentally friendly and socially inclusive economic development of the bordering regions, through the promotion of their touristic potential and respect of its common cultural and natural heritage. **Its budget** amounts to 9,7 Mln Euro, including co-financing.



### Eligible area:

#### *Albania:*

**Lezha Region** (municipalities of Kurbin, Lezha and Mirdita) and **Kukes Region** (municipalities of Has, Kukes and Tropoja);

#### *Kosovo:* **West Economic Region and South Economic Region**

The eligible area covers a territory of 8,335 km<sup>2</sup>. The programme eligible area has a total population of 936,761 inhabitants.

The Programme aims at providing assistance for cross-border cooperation in the following Thematic Priorities (TP):

- **TP1:** Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- **TP2:** Encouraging tourism and promoting natural and cultural heritage;
- **TP3:** Investing in youth, education and skills;

The respective **Specific Objectives** related to each of the abovementioned Priorities, are the followings:

- SO 1.1:** Protection and preservation of environmental resources.
- SO 2.1:** Tourism promotion and cultural and natural heritage valorisation as a way to foster economic development.
- SO 3.1:** Socio-economic integration of youth.



## Programme Bodies

### Contracting Authority

The contracting authority for the IPA CBC Programme Albania-Kosovo 2014-2020 is the EU Delegation to Tirana (contact address: [francesca.renzi@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:francesca.renzi@eeas.europa.eu)).

### Operating Structures

*The Albanian Operating Structure* is located in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

*The Kosovo Operating Structure* is located in the Ministry for Local Government Administration.

## The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) is the administrative body responsible for day-to-day management of the Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Albania-Kosovo. The JTS is responsible for assisting potential applicants in partner search, building their capacities in project development, ensure close cooperation of Operating Structures (OS), assist the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) through its secretariat role, monitoring, support and advise to grant beneficiaries, perform information campaigns and other activities aimed at raising public awareness on the CBC programme.

The main office of the JTS is located in Kukes

(contact: [jts.alks@gmail.com](mailto:jts.alks@gmail.com)),

while the Antenna is located in the city of Prizren.

## Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) is in charge of monitoring the overall implementation of the programme and it consists of representatives of two beneficiary countries, Macedonia and Albania who have an equal status in the JMC.

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of IPA CBC Kosovo - Albania Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc).

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with at least one Macedonian partner. Currently the Programme has launched one call for proposals, and two others are expected to be launched: one within 2018 and the other during 2019.

**Programme website:** <http://www.albaniakosovo.org/>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:



## 5.5 Interreg ADRION

The countries participating in the **ADRION PROGRAMME** are 8, of which 4 are EU Member States (**Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia**), 3 are candidate countries (**Albania, Montenegro, Serbia**) and 1 potential candidate country (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**). Albania participates in the Programme with the whole territory.

The Programme's **main goal** is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator, fostering European integration among Partner States, taking advantage of their rich natural, cultural and human resources, as well as enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Adriatic and Ionian region.



### Budget

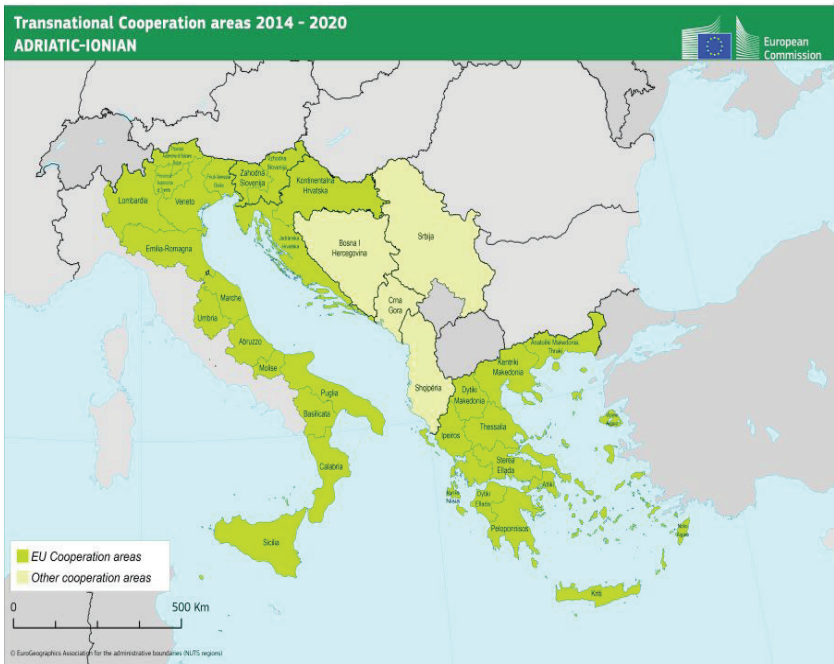
By creating funding opportunities, ADRION's purpose is to contribute to reduce the disparities in the Adriatic and Ionian region. To achieve this, MEUR 118 has been allocated, coming from two European financial sources:

- MEUR 83,5 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- MEUR 15,7 million from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPAI)

The remaining MEUR 18,8 are Partner States' contribution (national contribution).

In general, ADRION grants subsidies to beneficiaries through calls for project proposals. When a call for proposals is launched, interested applicants shall submit their project proposals in accordance with programme requirements and application form.





## Priority Axes of the Programme

### Priority Axis 1: Innovative and Smart Region

*Specific Objective 1.1:* Support the development of a regional Innovation system for the Adriatic-Ionian area”.

### Priority Axis 2: Sustainable Region

*Specific Objective 2.1:* Promote the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic-Ionian area;

*Specific Objective 2.2:* Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area.

### Priority Axis 3: Connected Region

*Specific Objective 3.1:* Enhance capacity for integrated transport and mobility services and multimodality in the Adriatic-Ionian area.

## **Programme management bodies**

**The Managing Authority** is in charge of the general implementation of the programme on behalf of the Partner States. The Managing Authority organises the call for proposals and coordinates the assessment of the received applications and the monitoring of the funded ones. It is responsible for the sound financial management of the programme. The Managing Authority of ADRION Programme is the Italian Region of Emilia Romagna.

Contact address: [ADRION@REGIONE.EMILIA-ROMAGNA.IT](mailto:ADRION@REGIONE.EMILIA-ROMAGNA.IT)

**The Joint Secretariat** provides information to applicants about funding opportunities, deals with project applications, and assists beneficiaries in implementing their projects. It ensures the project selection is equitable and transparent, collects and elaborates data for programme monitoring, and coordinates and promotes programme events at a transnational level.

The JS is located in the city of Bologna.

Contact address: [INFO@INTERREGADRION.EU](mailto:INFO@INTERREGADRION.EU).

**National Contact points** play a relevant role in identifying key audiences, spreading information about the programme as well as supporting beneficiaries at the national level.

Each Partner State has set up a national contact point, whose main tasks are to:

- assist the Joint Secretariat in the programme implementation process;
- contribute to the information and publicity actions within their respective country;
- serve as a contact point for project applicants, partners and stakeholders at national level by providing assistance for the project generation.

Albanian National contact point for ADRION Programme is the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs,

contact: [gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al](mailto:gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al) and

[elkana.himci@mfa.gov.al](mailto:elkana.himci@mfa.gov.al)

Additionally, in Albania operates also the **First Level Control (FLC) office** which verifies and confirms the expenditures of the Albanian beneficiaries.

The contact addresses within the FLC Office (CFCU, Ministry of Finance) are the following:

[rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al](mailto:rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al) and [eva.shehu@financa.gov.al](mailto:eva.shehu@financa.gov.al)

### Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of Interreg ADRION Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)
- Private profit-making bodies (mainly SMEs, companies).

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with partners from other ADRION countries. Currently the Programme has launched two calls for proposals, and another one is expected to be launched during 2019.

**Programme website:** <http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:

<http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/index.php/projects/second-call-for-proposals-priority-axis-2/>

## 5.6. Interreg Balkan-MED Programme 2014-2020

The “Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020” is a cooperation Programme, deriving from the split of the “South East Europe 2007 – 2013” and brings together five (5) countries: 3 EU member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece) and two 2 candidate countries, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Balkan – Mediterranean Cooperation Programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 28.330.108,00 Euros. The total support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) fund accounts for 5.126.138,00 Euros. Therefore, **the total budget of the Programme, including national contribution, is 39.727.654 Euro.**



### Priorities of the BalkanMed Programme

#### Priority Axis 1: “Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

The related specific objectives of PA 1 are the followings:

**SO 1.1:** Competitive territories: stimulating business performance and extroversion through transnational linkages, clusters and networks;

**SO 1.2:** Innovative territories: unleashing territorial potential to improve the transnational innovation capacity of the business sector;

**SO 1.3:** Territories of knowledge: entrepreneurial learning and knowledge transfer for more competitive SMEs.

## Priority Axis 2: “Environment”

**SO 2.1:** Biodiversity: taking on the transnational challenge by promoting ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration;

**SO 2.2:** Sustainable territories: fostering transnational cooperation for resource efficiency and climate change resilience;

**SO 2.3:** Delivery on environmental legal framework: improving transnational governance capacities.

### Programme Authorities

**The Monitoring Committee (MC)** – consisting of representatives of each participating country – supervises the implementation of the BalkanMed Programme and selects Projects to be financed. Its overall task is to ensure the quality and effectiveness of Programme implementation.

**The Managing Authority (MA)**, hosted by the Greek Ministry of Economy and Development, is responsible for the overall Programme implementation. Contact address: [balkanmed@mou.gr](mailto:balkanmed@mou.gr).

**The Joint Secretariat (JS)** assists the Managing Authority, National Authority / Operating Structure, the Joint Monitoring Committee and when appropriate the Audit Authority and Certifying Authority in carrying out their respective duties. The Joint Secretariat is located in Thessaloniki and its contact address is the following: [tchatzikonstantinou@mou.gr](mailto:tchatzikonstantinou@mou.gr). The JS is the main contact body for the applicants and beneficiaries.

**First Level Controllers (FLCs)** are designated by each Partner State to ensure the compliance of expenditure incurred by project partners on national level with Community and national rules, by carrying out appropriate verifications, covering administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of operations. Each country participating in the BalkanMed Programme is responsible for verifications carried out on its territory. The contact addresses within the FLC Office (CFCU, Ministry of Finance) are the following:

[rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al](mailto:rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al) and [eva.shehu@financa.gov.al](mailto:eva.shehu@financa.gov.al)

**National Contact Points (NCPs)** are set up by each participating country to complement transnational activities of the MA and the JS by involving stakeholders from the national level. NCPs hold the BalkanMed's coordination role on the territory of the participating countries. Albanian National contact point for Balkan MED Programme is the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, contact: [gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al](mailto:gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al) and [blerina.visha@mfa.gov.al](mailto:blerina.visha@mfa.gov.al)

### Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of Interreg Balkan Med Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with partners from other Balkan Med countries. Currently the Programme has launched one call for proposals, and another one is expected to be launched during 2019.

**Programme website:** <http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/home/>  
Call for proposals are published in the following link:

<http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/calls-for-proposals/>

## 5.7 Interreg Mediterranean (MED)

The MED transnational programme supports the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and the improvement of public policies between national, regional and local authorities and other territorial actors of eligible regions of the MED area.



It includes 57 regions from 10 different EU countries and 3 candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the 2014-2020 period.

For 2014-2020, **the total budget of the Programme** is around 275 million euro (out of which, around 11 million Euro are dedicated to the three IPA countries). Its overall objective is to promote sustainable growth in this area. As a consequence, the projects co-funded by the Programme should be focused **on the following thematics:**

*>blue growth > green growth > social innovation, cultural and creative industries > energy efficiency in public buildings > renewable energy > low carbon urban transports > sustainable maritime and coastal tourism > biodiversity protection.*



## Priorities of Interreg MED Programme and related Specific Objectives:

**Priority Axis 1:** "Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth"

**SO 1.1:** To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area.

**Priority Axis 2:** "Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories: cities, islands and rural areas"

**SO 2.1:** To increase capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level

**SO 2.2:** To increase the share of renewable local energy sources in energy mix strategies and plans in MED territories

**SO 2.3:** To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them

**Priority Axis 3:** "Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources"

**SO 3.1:** To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area

**SO 3.2:** To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas

### **Programme Bodies:**

The MED Member and Partner States have designated as **Managing Authority (MA)** the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur Region (France) which is responsible for managing and implementing the Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

**The Monitoring Committee (MC)** is set up by the 13 Member and Partner States. Regular meetings are held together with the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority. This transnational Committee is responsible for the efficient and qualitative implementation of the Programme: it mainly decides on the calls for project proposals and selects the projects. Decisions are taken on a consensus basis.



**The Joint Secretariat** is a transnational team assisting the Managing Authority, the MC and the Audit Authority in implementing the Programme. It receives the Project applications and instructs them, provides information to applicants and beneficiaries. It sets up and maintains contacts with Lead Partners and their partnerships. Ensures at transnational level coordination, follow-up and promotion activities and provides technical support for the preparation of meetings and events at the programme and project level.

JS contact address: [programme\\_med@regionpaca.fr](mailto:programme_med@regionpaca.fr)

Set up by each Member State up in coherence with their administrative system, **the National Contact Points** (NCPs) can be individuals or administrative bodies. Their role is to ensure the transnationality of the programme and help mainstreaming of projects. They are in direct contact with national stakeholders and provide information on the programme, on the calls for projects and on administrative requirements for the submission of applications.

Albanian National contact point for MED Programme is the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, contact:

[gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al](mailto:gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al) and [elkana.himci@mfa.gov.al](mailto:elkana.himci@mfa.gov.al)

Additionally, in Albania operates also the **First Level Control (FLC) office** which verifies and confirms the expenditures of the Albanian beneficiaries. The contact addresses within the FLC Office (CFCU, Ministry of Finance) are the following:

[rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al](mailto:rejsi.kotollaku@financa.gov.al) and [eva.shehu@financa.gov.al](mailto:eva.shehu@financa.gov.al)

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of Interreg MED Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with partners from other MED countries. Currently the Programme has launched two calls for proposals, and two other calls are expected to be launched: one by end of 2018 and another one during 2019.

**Programme website:** <http://interreg-med.eu/en/home/>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:



## 5.8 Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020

The “Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro” is a trilateral cross-border cooperation Programme co-funded by the European Union.



**The main goal** of the “Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro” is to enhance cooperation in the Programme area to tackle common challenges in order to boost and integrate territorial development. It aims to enable regional and local stakeholders from eligible areas to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services, and support investment in the areas of interest.

### **The Programme eligible area includes:**

**Italy:** **Puglia Region:** provinces of Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Brindisi, Foggia, Lecce, Taranto.

**Molise Region:** provinces of Campobasso and Isernia.

**Albania:** The entire country.

**Montenegro:** The entire country.

The total **Programme budget** is EUR 92,707,558. The Programme is co-financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) at a rate of 85% and requires a share of 15% national co-financing.



## Priority Axes of the Programme and the related Specific Objectives

PRIORITY AXES	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
1. Strengthening the cross-border cooperation and competitiveness of SMEs	<i>1.1 Enhance the framework conditions for the development of SME's cross-border market.</i>
2. Smart management of natural and cultural heritage for the exploitation of cross border sustainable tourism and territorial attractiveness	<i>2.1 Boost attractiveness of natural and cultural assets to improve a smart and sustainable economic development.</i>
	<i>2.2 Increase the cooperation of the key actors of the area for the delivery of innovative cultural and creative products.</i>
3. Environment protection, risk management and low carbon strategy	<i>3.1 Increase cross-border cooperation strategies on water landscapes.</i>
	<i>3.2 Promoting innovative practices and tools to reduce carbon emissions and to improve energy efficiency in the public sector.</i>
4. Increasing cross border accesibility, promoting sustainable transport service and facilities and improving public infrastructures	<i>4.1 Increase coordination among relevant stakeholders to promote sustainable cross border connections in the cooperation area.</i>

## Programme bodies

**The Managing Authority of the Programme** is in charge of the general implementation of the programme on behalf of the three countries. It performs its tasks for the benefit of the whole programme and, in line with its coordination role, it further ensures that all programme bodies work together. The Managing Authority of Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro is the Italian Region of Puglia.

Contact address:

[area.economia@regione.puglia.it](mailto:area.economia@regione.puglia.it) and  
[d.laforgia@regionepuglia.it](mailto:d.laforgia@regionepuglia.it)

**The Joint Secretariat** provides information to applicants about funding opportunities, deals with project applications, and assists beneficiaries in implementing their projects. It ensures the project selection is equitable and transparent, collects and elaborates data for programme monitoring, and coordinates and promotes programme events.

It also assists the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee in carrying out their tasks. The JS is located in the city of Bari.

Contact address: [js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu](mailto:js@italy-albania-montenegro.eu)

**National Info Points (NIP)** play a relevant role in identifying key audiences, spreading information about the programme as well as supporting beneficiaries at the national level. The NIP in Albania is operated by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Contact details:

[gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al](mailto:gentian.xhaxhiu@mfa.gov.al) and  
[ergj.curri@gmail.com](mailto:ergj.curri@gmail.com)

Additionally, in Albania operates also the **First Level Control (FLC) office** which verifies and confirms the expenditures of the Albanian beneficiaries. The contact address within the FLC Office is the following: [klejdi.dusha@gmail.com](mailto:klejdi.dusha@gmail.com).

## Who can apply?

In case some institutions or organizations would like to apply for a project in the frame of Interreg MED Programme, they have to fall under the list of **eligible partners**, as following:

- national, regional or local public authorities ( Ministries, Public Agencies, Regional Councils, Municipalities, local Directorates of the different Ministries, Universities, Hospitals, etc.);
- bodies governed by public law (such as Port authorities, chambers of commerce, etc),
- private non-profit organisations (civil society organisations, NGOs, business associations, etc)

Individual applicants, such as students, farmers or citizens cannot apply under this programme as single applicants. Profit making bodies such as SMEs or companies cannot apply for funding either. Nevertheless, students, farmers, citizens, SMEs or companies can be a target group of these funding and in most of the cases are the final beneficiaries.

The Programme launches **Calls for proposals** and all interested bodies which fall under the abovementioned categories can apply with their project proposals, in partnership with at least two other partners (one from Italy and one from Montenegro). Currently the Programme has launched two calls for proposals, and another one is expected to be launched during 2019.

**Programme website:** <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu>

Call for proposals are published in the following link:



<http://www.europuglia.it/cte-2014-2020/it-al-me/bandi>

# 6

## IPA Component for Rural Development (IPARD II)

The IPARD II programme is focused on the objectives of the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2014-2020 (ISARD strategy) for development of a sustainable agri-food sector and revitalized rural areas that is highly consistent with the objectives set for the agriculture and rural development policy area in the Country Strategy Paper. The Programme will aim at enhancing the capacity of the agri-food sector to cope with competitive pressure and progressive alignment to Union standards. To achieve these objectives the Programme will support investments in physical assets of agri-food sector and enhancement of advisory services.



**IPARD II Programme will support interventions in the following 7 (seven) measures:**

- ***“Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings”*** will encourage and support investments in improving productivity and product quality and attainment of Union standards;
- ***Advisory services*** measure. Through this measure the capacity of the advisory services will be strengthened and a range and quality of advisory services to farmers will be improved;
- The measure ***Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products*** will support investments in fixed assets needed for increasing the competitiveness of food processing and compliance with EU standards;
- ***Agri-environment-climate and organic farming*** measure will be applied for pilot operations in order to build capacity for management and control of agri-environmental interventions implemented under the Rural Development Programmes in the member states;

- **Agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure** aims at improving the capacity to implement area based interventions;

- **Farm diversification and business development** - The measure will support investments in physical assets needed to diversify and increase farm incomes. The measure will support investments for development of non-agricultural sectors in rural areas and development of entrepreneurship, especially of young people and women, which is required to create new employment opportunities

- In addition, the IPARD II programme will support building up of the national capacity for local development based on LEADER approach. The Technical Assistance measure will be used for initial capacity building of Local action groups and preparation of their strategies, while measure **“Implementation of local development strategies - LEADER approach”** will support actions for animation of the territory, further capacity building and implementation of small scale projects.

Maximum indicative EU contribution for IPARD funds for 2014-2020 is 71.000.000 EUR.

### **Responsible structure for the management of the IPARD II funds**

The structure responsible for the management and coordination of IPARD II component is also known as Operating Structure (OS). The OS is responsible for the management and implementation of the IPARD II programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The Operating Structure designated for IPARD II programme consists of the following separate authorities operating in close cooperation:

- **The Managing Authority (MA)** represented by the **Directorate for Programming and Evaluation of Rural Policy** in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania is responsible for the correct and efficient management of IPARD II programme. The MA is in charge of programming, including selection of measures under each call for applications and their timing, publicity, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.



- **IPA Rural Development Agency (IPARD Agency)** is in charge of publicity, selection of projects, authorisation, control and accounting of commitments and payments and execution of payments, debt management and internal audit. **The Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA)** is designated as **IPARD Agency** and it is an independent public body, operating under the direct responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture. IPARD Agency (ARDA) is responsible for the implementation of the IPARD II programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

### **Administrative procedure for selection of investment projects**

Projects under investment measures are selected through open calls of applications. The Managing Authority, in agreement with the IPARD Agency, each year draws up an Annual Work Programme of Calls for applications (AWP), indicating the number of calls, time for launching and deadlines for submission of applications of each call, the indicative budget of each measure under each call for applications. The annual programme will be published on the Programme website no later than 31 January of each year.

For each call for application, a Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) is published, which will specify: the objectives of the measures, eligibility criteria (eligibility of applicants, investments and eligibility of expenditures) and selection criteria; the total budget of the call and per measure, list of supporting documents for applications; deadlines for submission of applications, procedure for submission and selection of applications.

Calls for proposals under IPARD II Programme will be published in the website of the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al>) and the website of ARDA (<http://azhbr.gov.al/>).

**Potential applicants for benefiting IPARD II grants** are defined by each Call for proposals, but in general they can be identified as:

- Agricultural Holdings;
- Agricultural cooperation association;
- Individual farmers, small farmers (farmers under 40 years old and women farmers have precedence).

In order to receive funding from IPARD II Programme **the applicant must fulfill also the following criteria:**

- The applicant must prove that he/she is the owner of the land/building/s relating to the investment or they have the right to use it for a minimum of 10 years counting from the date when the application is submitted.
- The applicants must present a technical project proposal or a business plan proving the economic viability of the project investment at the end of the investment;
- The applicants must have fulfilled all obligations relating to the payment of taxes, including land tax, and social security (pension and health) contributions and must not be on the bad debtor list of ARDA.

ARDA staff will organize dedicated Info Days whenever a call for proposals is launched and will support the applicants during the application phase.

# 7

## The Union Programmes

### 7.1 What are Union Programmes?

The EU has established **European Union Programmes** in order to promote cooperation, primarily among Member States, in fields related to different EU policies (i.e research, competitiveness and innovation, media, education, health, youth, culture, environment, customs policy, fight against poverty, fight against youth unemployment, etc.).

**European Union Programmes are multi-annual financial instruments structured to support common EU internal policies. The policies behind the Union Programmes (UPs) are closely related** to the priorities of the strategy Europe 2020 – delivering the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In short, EU Programmes are defined by the EU policy they are helping to implement and the budget heading from which the financial resources are streamlined. Upon those two prerequisites, the legal framework is built by the Commission, Parliament and Council.

In principle, all EU Member States are eligible to participate in European Union Programmes. Candidate Countries to join the EU can also participate in a particular European Union Programme.

### 7.2 Who manages Union Programmes?

European Union programmes are implemented according to the centralized implementation model, in which the financial management and implementation of the particular programmes are under authorities of the Directorate General (DG) of the European Commission in charge of each programme. Different Directorates General of the European Commission are responsible for the implementation of the individual Union Programmes according to their scope of work.

Each programme establishes its own rules of management. Each Union Programme has a Programme Guide providing detailed information on the eligibility criteria for each of the programme's actions. Presently, most of them are designed for seven years period in accordance with EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 - 2020.

The annual plan (in some programmes the work plan) is an important document for each Union Programme. It is very specific, with definition of all call for proposals and tenders that will be published during the year. Some EU programmes have just one annual working plan for the whole programme. The biggest ones, like Horizon 2020, have several work plans for different parts of the programme.

### **7.3 Participation in Union Programmes of EU Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries**

Most of the European Union Programmes are also open to EU accession countries. *The idea of involving the Candidate Countries in European Union Programmes was first put forward at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen in June 1993. Work on putting the idea into practice started in 1997. In 2003 during the European Council meeting in Thessaloniki, it was decided to open the European Union Programmes to countries outside the EU and EEA, so that all countries in the Stabilization and Association Process may participate. In all countries, opening up the opportunity to participate in European Union Programmes was considered as the best way for various actors in society to fully comprehend the policies and methods of working within the Union, as well as being a useful tool in support of countries' efforts on their way to EU membership.*

*Currently, all Western Balkan countries including Albania, participates in different European Union Programmes, in particular, in education, vocational training, youth, research, energy, the environment, small and medium-sized enterprises and public health.*

Each non-EU member country with the possibility to participate in Union Programmes decides on its own participation in a particular programme, according to its needs and priorities. As some programmes are rather vast, and have different sub-programmes, sometimes eligible non-EU member country can decide to participate only in a particular sub- programme or component and not in the whole Programme.

### 7.4 Albania and the Union programmes.

During the current Programming period (2014-2020), Albania participates in 9 Union Programmes as the following:



To get funding for your project from the above listed EU programmes, you will need to identify a relevant call for proposals or projects issued under any of these programmes and carefully follow the specific guidelines on how to apply. Be aware that your project will compete for funding with projects submitted by other applicants coming from EU and Non-EU countries. The funding that you might receive in case you succeed with your project, will be a direct financial contribution provided by the European Commission in support of projects or organizations which contribute to the implementation of an EU programme or policy.

## 7.5 Explications of the nine Union Programmes in which Albania participate.

### The Programme - HORIZON 2020

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billions of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.</p> <p>The programme focuses on but is not limited to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent Science (future and emerging technologies, research infrastructures, including e-infrastructure)</li> <li>• Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies ( Nanotechnologies and advanced magerilas, biotechnology, and Advanced manufacturing, Information and communication technologies)</li> <li>• Innovation in SME's</li> <li>• Access to Risk Finance</li> <li>• Societal Challenge ( Health, demographic change and wellbeing. Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy. Smart, Green and Integrated Transport. Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials)</li> </ul>	<p>Being the main research and innovation grant giving programme of the European Union, multiple and various actors can apply under specific calls for proposals: public and private entities from all the sectors : from culture to technology, from social services to infrastructure to health, from medicine, inginerung to SME's etc...</p>	<p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/horizon-2020">https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/horizon-2020</a></p>

## The Programme - COSME

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It runs from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3bn.</p> <p>COSME will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better access to finance for SMEs</li> <li>• access to markets for SMEs</li> <li>• entrepreneurship</li> <li>• more favourable conditions for business creation and growth</li> </ul>	<p>The target applicants on this programme are Small and Media Size enterprises (SME's) as well as the Commercial Chambers or Bank Institutions.</p>	<p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme">https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme</a></p>

## The Programme - ERASMUS PLUS

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad.</p> <p>Set to last until 2020, Erasmus+ doesn't just have opportunities for students. Merging seven prior programmes, it has opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations.</p>	<p>The target applicants on this programme are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual requesting a scholarship (master or doctorate degree)</li> <li>- High education level institutions (master's and Universities)</li> <li>- Civil society organizations working in the filed of formal and non-formal education</li> <li>- Sport entities</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about_en">http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about_en</a></p>



## The Programme - EaSI

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a European-level financing instrument managed directly by the European Commission to support employment, social policy and labour mobility across the EU. EaSI funding is used to test ideas for reform out on the ground, evaluate them and then upscale the best ones across Member States. The concept of social innovation, which has a special focus on youth, is at the heart of EaSI. The programme will provide €10-14 million a year for social innovation activities.</p>	<p>The target applicants on this programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local public authorities</li> <li>- Civil Society Organizations</li> <li>- Public institutions</li> <li>- Private entities working in the employment field</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&amp;langId=en&amp;callId=539&amp;furtherCalls=yes">http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&amp;langId=en&amp;callId=539&amp;furtherCalls=yes</a></p>

## The Programme - CREATIVE EUROPE

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p><b>Creative Europe</b> is a €1.46 billion European Union programme for the cultural, creative and audio-visual sectors for the years 2014-2020. The programme was approved by the European Parliament on 19 November 2013 and adopted by the European Council on 3 December 2013. It came into force on 1 January 2014. The different funding schemes encourage the audiovisual, cultural and creative players to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills needed in the digital age.</p>	<p>The target applicants on this programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Organizations</li> <li>- Local authorities</li> <li>- Creative Industry entities</li> <li>- Private companies working in the audiovisual sector</li> <li>- Publishing houses and publishers</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/">https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/</a></p>

## The Programme - EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p><b>The Programme is established by the Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 for the period 2014-2020.</b> The aim of this Programme is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU</b>, its history and diversity</li> <li>• To <b>foster European citizenship</b> and to <b>improve conditions for civic and democratic</b> participation at EU level</li> <li>• To <b>raise awareness of remembrance</b>, common history and values</li> <li>• To <b>encourage democratic participation</b> of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.</li> </ul> <p><b>The overall budget of the Programme is 235 Million Euro.</b></p>	<p>The target applicants on this programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Organizations</li> <li>- Local authorities</li> <li>- Civil Society Organizations</li> <li>- Creative Industry entities</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en">https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en</a></p>

## The Programme - FISCALIS

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>Fiscalis 2020 is an EU cooperation programme which enables national tax administrations to create and exchange information and expertise. It allows developing and operating major trans-European IT systems together, as well as establishing networks by bringing together national officials from across Europe. Fiscalis 2020 has a budget of € 234.3 million.</p> <p>The current programme covers the period 2014-2020.</p>	<p>This is a specific programme since it targets the cooperation only with the General Directory of Taxation in Albania.</p> <p>If you are an official interested in organising or participating in programme activities, you should get in touch with your national programme coordinator. This person can advise on the eligibility of your idea for funding and can inform you about any forthcoming initiatives being organised in other participating countries. You can also contact the European Commission: <a href="mailto:TAXUD-fiscalis@ec.europa.eu">TAXUD-fiscalis@ec.europa.eu</a>.</p>	<p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/fiscalis-programme_en#What%20is%20Fiscalis%202020?">https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/fiscalis-programme_en#What%20is%20Fiscalis%202020?</a></p>

## The Programme - CUSTOMS 2020

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p><b>Customs 2020</b> is an EU cooperation programme which provides national customs administrations with the possibility to create and exchange information and expertise. It allows joint development and operation of major trans-European IT systems and establishment of networks by bringing together national officials from across Europe. Customs 2020 has a budget of € 547.3 million. The current programme covers the period 2014-2020.</p>	<p>This is a specific programme since it targets the cooperation only with the General Directory of Customs in Albania.</p> <p>If you are a Customs official interested in organising or participating in programme activities, you should get in touch with your national programme coordinator. This person can advise on the eligibility of your idea for funding and can inform you about any forthcoming initiatives being organised in other participating countries.</p> <p>You can also contact the European Commission:  <b><i>T A X U D - C u s - t o m s 2 0 2 0 @ e c . e u r o - p a . e u .</i></b></p>	<p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-cooperation-programmes/customs-2020-programme_en#Whats%20is%20customs%202020">https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-cooperation-programmes/customs-2020-programme_en#Whats%20is%20customs%202020</a></p>

## The Programme - JUSTICE

Explication	Who Can Apply	Web Link
<p>This programme contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust.</p> <p>It promotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- judicial cooperation in civil matters, including civil and commercial matters, insolvencies, family matters and successions, etc.</li> <li>- judicial cooperation in criminal matters</li> <li>- judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture</li> <li>- effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings</li> <li>- initiatives in the field of drugs policy (judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects)</li> </ul>	<p>This programe is open for public entities dealing with justice in Albania and fund the following actions :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules,...)</li> <li>- Mutual learning, cooperation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools...</li> <li>- Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences,...</li> <li>- Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law,...)</li> <li>- Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides...)</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/justice/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/justice/index_en.htm</a></p>

## **7.6 Additional Contact Points of Union Programmes**

Upon signature of the Agreement between Albania and the EU on a given Union Programme, Albania is requested to establish the appropriate coordination structures and mechanisms to implement the Programme in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Regulation establishing the Programme.

An institution is assigned as the Programme National Coordinator (PNC) for each individual Union Programme (i.e Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth for “Erasmus Plus”, or Ministry of Culture for “Creative Europe”). A senior staff within the institutions is appointed (by the head of the institution) as the National Contact Point (NCP) for the given Union Programme.

The National Contact Point is a senior staff, within the Ministry / institution acting as Programme National Coordinator.

The role of the NCP in Albania is to facilitate the application process of all Albanian applicants wishing to present a project proposal under each call for proposals of the programme issued on an annual basis.

Please find in the table below, the correspondent Albanian Ministry / Central institutions, in charge for managing the a specific programme in Albania and for which a NCP is assigned and work to support the programme in Albania.

The programme	Albanian Ministry in charge of administering the NCP for this programme	Website of the Ministry or programme website in Albania
HORIZON 2020	Ministry of Education	<a href="http://www.arsimi.gov.al">www.arsimi.gov.al</a>
COSME	Ministry of Finance	<a href="http://www.financa.gov.al">www.financa.gov.al</a>
ERASMUS PLUS	Ministry of Education Special Office of Erasmus Plus	<a href="http://erasmusplus.al">http://erasmusplus.al</a>
EaSI	Ministry of Health and Social Protection	<a href="http://www.shendetesia.gov.al">www.shendetesia.gov.al</a>
CREATIVE EUROPE	Ministry of Culture and Albanian National Center of Cinematography	<a href="http://www.evropakrijuese.al">www.evropakrijuese.al</a>
EUROPE FOR CITIZENS	Ministry of Culture	<a href="http://www.kultura.gov.al">www.kultura.gov.al</a>
FISCALIS	General Directorate of Taxation	<a href="http://www.tatime.gov.al">www.tatime.gov.al</a>
CUSTOMS 2020	General Directorate of Customs	<a href="http://www.dogana.gov.al">www.dogana.gov.al</a>
JUSTICE	Ministry of Justice	<a href="http://www.drejtesia.gov.al">www.drejtesia.gov.al</a>

## **7.7 The most accessible Union Programmes by the common Albanian potential applications as local level: Civil Society Organization, Cultural Organizations, SME's, local public institutions and local governments**

### **A. Europe for citizens**

**The Programme is established by the Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 for the period 2014-2020**

The aim of this Programme is:

- To **contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU**, its history and diversity
- To **foster European citizenship** and to **improve conditions for civic and democratic** participation at EU level
- To **raise awareness of remembrance**, common history and values
- To **encourage democratic participation** of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level

**The overall budget of the Programme is 235 Million Euro.**

**Priorities of the programme for 2018-2020**

#### **Specific priorities for European Remembrance (Strand 1)**

1. Commemorations of major historical turning points in recent European history **2018 – 2019 – 2020**
2. Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes
3. Antisemitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today
4. Democratic transition and accession to the European Union



Year of application	Eligible commemorations
2018	<p><b>1918</b> The end of WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence</p> <p><b>1938/1939</b> Beginning of WWII</p> <p><b>1948</b> Beginning of the Cold War</p> <p><b>1948</b> The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe</p> <p><b>1968</b> Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, student protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland</p>
2019	<p><b>1979</b> European Parliament elections – also 40 years since the first directly elected EP in 1979</p> <p><b>1989</b> Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall</p> <p><b>2004</b> 15 years of EU enlargement into central and Eastern Europe</p>
2020	<p><b>1950</b> Robert Schuman Declaration</p> <p><b>1990</b> German reunification</p> <p><b>2000</b> Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights</p>

## Specific priorities for "Democratic engagement and civic participation" (Strand 2)

1. Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism;
2. Promoting solidarity in times of crisis;
3. Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups;
4. European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

### What does the Programme support?

- **European remembrance** – raising awareness of remembrance, common history, values and the aim of the EU
- **Democratic engagement and civic participation** – encouraging democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level
  - Town Twinning
  - Networks of towns
  - Civil society projects

The Programme provides two kinds of grants:

- **Action grants** – for actions with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented
- **Operating grants** – providing financial support for regular and usual activities of an organisation

### Who can apply?

Public bodies (including municipalities) or non-profit organizations with a legal personality can apply for funding under this Programme.

The programme is open to the 28 EU Member States - and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission to:

- Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates
- EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement

Currently the following countries have signed an agreement on participation to the Europe for Citizens Programme: Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina. Specific rules apply for each strand.

**The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency** of the European Commission is responsible for the implementation of most activities of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

The website of the Programme: [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/europe-for-citizens-programme/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/europe-for-citizens-programme/index_en.htm)

Contact details are provided below:

**Strand 1. - European remembrance:**

[EACEA-C1-REMEMBRANCE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-C1-REMEMBRANCE@ec.europa.eu)

**Strand 2. - Democratic engagement and civic participation:**

[EACEA-C1-TT-NT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-C1-TT-NT@ec.europa.eu) (Town twinning & Networks of Towns)

[EACEA-C1-CIVILSOCIETY@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-C1-CIVILSOCIETY@ec.europa.eu) (Civil society projects)

Operating grants

[EACEA-C1-OPERATINGGRANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-C1-OPERATINGGRANTS@ec.europa.eu)

In Albania the Programme is coordinated by the **Ministry of Culture.**

Contact address: [arlinda.kondi@kultura.gov.al](mailto:arlinda.kondi@kultura.gov.al)

## B. Creative Europe

**Creative Europe** is a €1.46 billion European Union programme for the cultural, creative and audio-visual sectors for the years 2014-2020. The programme was approved by the European Parliament on 19 November 2013 and adopted by the European Council on 3 December 2013. It came into force on 1 January 2014. The different funding schemes encourage the audiovisual, cultural and creative players to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills needed in the digital age.

By helping European cultural and audiovisual works to reach audiences in other countries, the programme will also contribute to safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity.

The Programme is composed of **two sub-programmes**:

**The Culture sub-programme** helps cultural and creative organisations to operate transnationally and promotes the cross-border circulation of works of culture and the mobility of cultural players. It provides financial support to projects with a European dimension aiming to share cultural content across borders. Funding opportunities cover a diverse range of schemes: Cooperation projects, Literary Translation, Networks or Platforms. The supported activities aim to enable cultural and creative players to work internationally.

**The Media sub-programme** supports the EU film and audiovisual industries financially in the **development, distribution and promotion** of their work. It helps to launch projects with a European dimension and nurtures new technologies; it enables European films and audiovisual works including **feature films, television drama, documentaries and new media** to find **markets beyond national and European borders**; it funds **training** and **film development** schemes.

In addition, the Programme foresees the so-called “**Cross-sectoral strand**”. As specified in the Regulation, the Cross-sectoral strand shall facilitate the access to finance for SMEs and organisations from the cultural and creative sectors as well as promote transnational policy cooperation. There are different actions supported under the Cross-sectoral strand of the Creative Europe programme:

1. The establishment of a Guarantee Facility targeting the cultural and creative sectors;
2. The promotion of transnational policy development;
3. Supporting a network of Creative Europe Desks.

**The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency** of the European Commission is responsible for the implementation and management of Creative Europe Programme.

For questions, assistance related to the programme and help cooperating with organisations in other countries, Creative Europe Desks are in place in every participating country. In Albania the Programme Desk is established within the Ministry of Culture.

Contact address: [arlinda.kondi@kultura.gov.al](mailto:arlinda.kondi@kultura.gov.al).

**The website of the Programme:** [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node_en)

Call for actions and tenders are published in the following link:



### C. EaSI New EU umbrella programme for employment and social policy.

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a European-level financing instrument managed directly by the European Commission to support employment, social policy and labour mobility across the EU. EaSI funding is used to test ideas for reform out on the ground, evaluate them and then upscale the best ones across Member States. The concept of social innovation, which has a special focus on youth, is at the heart of EaSI. The programme will provide €10-14 million a year for social innovation activities. EaSI brings together three EU programmes managed separately between 2007 and 2013:

- **PROGRESS (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity)**, which supported the development and coordination of EU policy for employment, social inclusion, social protection, working conditions, anti-discrimination and gender equality;

- **EURES (European Employment Services)**, a cooperation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the Member States that encourages mobility amongst workers;

- **PROGRESS Microfinance**, which aims to increase the availability of microcredit to individuals for setting up or developing a small business. Starting in January 2014, these programmes will form the three axes of EaSI. By grouping these programmes together in one umbrella programme, the Commission hopes to build on their past successes and achieve common objectives for EU employment and social policies. Improved coordination between the programmes, greater policy coherence as well as increased efficiency in delivery and management are also expected benefits of this move.

EaSI does not stand in isolation. Together with the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Globalisation Fund (EGF), it forms a coherent set of EU programmes to promote employment, social protection and social inclusion, as well as working conditions for the period 2014-20.

### **EaSI objectives**

- Strengthen ownership of EU objectives and coordination of action at EU and national levels in the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion.
- Support the development of adequate social protection systems and labour market policies by promoting good governance, mutual learning and social innovation.
- Modernise EU legislation and ensure effective application of EU legislation.
- Promote geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing an open labour market.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, and increase access to finance for social enterprises.

### **Organisations that can apply for funding:**

- national, regional and local authorities;
- employment services;
- social partner organisations and other interested parties.

For questions, assistance related to the programme and help cooperating with institutions and entities in other countries, the Albanian National Contact point for this programme is placed in the premises of the Ministry of Finance, thus for any requirement at local level please refer to the offices of this Ministry.

### **The website of the Programme:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>

Call for actions and tenders are published in the following link:



<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&langId=en&furtherCalls=yes&callType=2>

*Design u përgatit nga:*  
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A Guide<sup>to</sup>  
EU Funding  
the local perspective

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Korrik 2018