



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

Interreg - IPA CBC
Greece - Albania



**Managing Authority of European Territorial
Cooperation Programmes**
**Joint Secretariat of the Interreg IPA CBC
Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020"**
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3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS: TARGETED CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL
INTERREG IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
"GREECE-ALBANIA 2014-2020"

1. Context

The Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece –Albania 2014-2020" is a cross border co-operation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for the period from 2014 to 2020 (IPA II) shall support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) No.231/2014 in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to the Union's rules, standards, policies and practices, with a view to Union membership. Through such support, IPA II shall contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) No.231/2014.

Within this framework, the Interreg IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece – Albania 2014-2020" consists of three Priority Axes and four Thematic Priorities, which are:

- **Priority Axis 1:** Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport & public infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 2:** Boosting the local economy
- **Priority Axis 3:** Technical Assistance

Priority Axis 1 will be implemented via two thematic priorities focusing on:

1. Thematic Priority (c): Promoting sustainable transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities
2. Thematic Priority (b): Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management

Priority Axis 2 will be implemented via two thematic priorities focusing on:

1. Thematic Priority (d): Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage
2. Thematic Priority (g): Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation

The overall strategy of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme “Greece - Albania 2014-2020” is: “to find the balance between sustainable regional development and enhancement of cross-border cooperation among local population & regional institutions, in accordance with EU & national policies, in order to address common challenges through joint interventions”

The Programme’s budget allocated for the period 2014-2020 is 54.076.734,00€. This amount consists of **45.965.222,00€** EU contribution and **8.111.512,00€** national contributions. The national counterpart rate for both Greece and Albania is 15%. For the 3rd Call for project proposals, for the project beneficiaries from Albania, the 15% of the national counterpart will be covered by the beneficiaries own contribution.

The proposed targeted project in the framework of this Call will contribute to the achievement of significant goals of the Programme. Within this project, two specific output and one result indicators of the Programme are expected to be achieved. More particular, the result indicator “% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be constructed” should reach the 100% from 80,41% and the output indicator “Kilometers of CB road network studied” with target value of 30km.

Until now 2 vertical road axes were already studied or constructed which forms part of the Orient / East Mediterranean TEN-T Corridor and cross the Greece-Albania border;

- The Ioannina-Kakavia vertical axis (length:55 kms), crossing the border at Kakavia/Kakavije and linking Ioannina to Saranda and Vlore through state-road SH4, and
- The Siatista-Krystalopigi vertical axis (length:71,3 kms), crossing the border at Krystalopigi/Kapshtica, and linking Kastoria to Korce through state-road SH3.

The coastal connection between Igoumenitsa and Saranda (and Vlore thereafter) through state-road SH97 will be achieved with the development of the vertical axis Igoumenitsa – Sagiada - Mavromati. For this latter road axis there is no construction maturity today. After the completion of this road axis there will be 3 vertical axes to Egnatia motorway serving cross-border connections between Albania and Greece.

Finally, the output indicator “Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or constructed” with target value of 200m². This indicator will be achieved by interventions in the cross border station Qafe-Bote in Albania.

2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, beneficiaries are invited to consult the Cooperation Programme approved by the European Commission (Decision C(2015) 5482 of 30-07-2015, as amended by the Decision C(2017) 6809 of 12-10-2017 and C(2018) 559 of 14-02-2018), Regulation (EU) No.231/2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No.447/2014 (implementing Regulation (EU) No.231/2014) and annexes attached to this call. These documents are available on the Programme’s website at www.greece-albania.eu in the “2014-2020” section.

These documents are available on the Managing Authority’s website at <http://www.interreg.gr>, on the Programme’s website at <http://www.greece-albania.eu> and on the website of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania <http://www.punetejashtme.gov.al/>.

3. Priority Axes, Thematic priorities, Specific objectives

The present call for project proposal is open only for Specific Objective 1.1 under the Priority Axis 1:

Table 1: Priority Axis, Thematic Priority, Specific Objective and Targeted interventions

Priority Axis	1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure
Thematic Priority	(c) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks & services and investing in cross-border water, waste & energy systems and facilities
Specific Objective	1.1 Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management
Targeted interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studies on the Vertical Axis of Egnatia Motorway: Igoumenitsa - Sagiada -Mavromati• update/renew of the current infrastructure in the Border Crossing Point “Qafe Bote” as well as improve the surrounding spaces

The expected result that the partner States seek to achieve with Union support is to:

- Improve maturity of cross-border accessibility interventions.

4. Budget available

The total available budget for the 3rd call is 7.200.000,00 € (of which 6.120.000,00€ Union Support and 1.080.000,00€ National Counterpart).

5. Project size

The maximum project budget is the budget available of the respective call for the particular specific objective. This budget range is considered sufficient for the implementation of the targeted type of the project

6. Duration

The project activities shall not be physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding is submitted.

Projects should be concluded within a maximum period of thirty (30) months after the signing of the Subsidy Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary.

7. Eligibility of expenditure

Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries from Greece commences on the 1st of January 2014. Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries from Albania commences on the 22nd of September 2014 and payments can only be made after the signature of the Financing Agreement.

The final date of eligibility of expenditure should be the end date of the subsidy contract in force and under no circumstances may exceed the 31st of December 2023.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described at the Programme and Project Manual, in the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 of 4 March 2014, the Ministerial decision on Management and Control System (for Greek beneficiaries) with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for Cooperation Programmes.

8. Eligible Partnerships

Priority Axis / Specific Objective	Beneficiaries
Priority Axis 1: Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure Specific Objective: Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Egnatia Odos S.A., Greece• Albanian State Police• Ministry of Interior of Albania• General Directorate of Customs of Albania

The project shall be developed and managed according to the Lead Partner Principle. Beneficiaries shall appoint a Lead beneficiary among themselves that shall assume responsibilities according to the Lead Partner principle. The Lead beneficiary will represent the entire partnership towards the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat and will ensure the sound implementation of the entire project. The Lead beneficiary shall have the capacity to start the implementation of the project as quickly as possible and to concentrate all available managerial, financing and know-how resources and focus them on the project.

Beneficiaries shall cooperate in the development and implementation of operations. In addition, they shall cooperate in either the staffing or the financing of the operations or both.

Further information about the eligibility of partnerships and the Lead Partner Principle is provided in the Programme and Project Manual (Part A. Programme Guide).

9. How to apply – deadline

In order to submit the project proposal, the applicant must refer to the Applicant’s Package and to all relevant documents for this call for proposals. The project proposal should be submitted according to the guidelines given below:

The Project Proposal must be submitted electronically to the Programme’s Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat (JS) via MIS. The Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) is an information and management system for projects co financed under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and the Community Support Framework (CSF).

A Project Proposal consists of the digital version of the following documents that have to be uploaded into the MIS of the programme:

A. Electronic submission of the project proposal into the MIS of the programme,

To facilitate applicants’ familiarity with the electronic environment of the MIS, a model for the application form is attached.

The beneficiaries are strongly advised to fill in the template of the Application Form prior to inserting the relevant data onto the respective fields in the MIS.

B. The digital version of the following documents that have to be uploaded into the MIS of the programme:

1. The “*Project Identification*” sheet of the Application Form, uploaded in PDF format, stamped and signed by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary; The excel format of the Application form have to be also uploaded;
2. The “Partnership Declaration” (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by all the participating beneficiaries, uploaded in PDF format;
3. The “Declaration of not generating revenues” (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by the Lead beneficiary, uploaded in PDF format. In case of revenue generating project, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached, using the “Guide to Cost-benefit Analysis of Investment Projects - Economic appraisal tool for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020” at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf;
4. The “Co-Financing Statement and Non-Double Financing” completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately, uploaded in PDF format.
5. The “State aid declaration” (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by Greek Beneficiary, uploaded in PDF format;
6. The “Specification of Budget Costs” (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by the LB for the total project budget, uploaded in PDF format. The Excel format have to be also uploaded;
7. The “Maturity Sheet” per beneficiary (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately;
8. Decision of the designated body or similar decision by the Legal Representative of each Project Beneficiary, according to the respective national legislation, stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, signed and stamped, uploaded in PDF format;
9. The Legal Entity Form (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by the each beneficiary in Albania, accompanied by the justifying documents which are requested therein, uploaded in PDF format;

The template of the respective form is also available on:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/?header_description=DEVCO+Prag+to+financial+and+contractual+procedures+applicable+to+external+actions+financed+from+the+general+budget+of+the+EU+and+from+the+11th+EDF&header_keywords=ePrag%2C+europa

The JS may also request additional documentation for clarification of the above issues, during the evaluation procedure.

All the required documents of the proposal must be electronically submitted at the latest until the 01/10/2018, 23:59 local time (Greek time). In case the proposal is submitted after the above date and time, it will not be considered as eligible.

10. State Aid

In cases where, during the proposal submission and/or evaluation, it derives from the compatibility check that there are indications of State Aid, then the clauses of the Regulations of 1407/2013 (De Minimis) or 651/20141 (GBER) are applied.

11. Evaluation of proposal

The submitted project proposal will be evaluated immediately after submission based on specific selection criteria and will be subjected to a two-phase selection procedure, carried out by the Joint Secretariat (JS) as referred in the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece-Albania 2014-2020” (Section: Submission of Proposals and Selection of Operations). Positive evaluation will lead to commitment of funds.

The MA ensures that the evaluation procedure is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 3rd targeted call for project proposals and the approved selection criteria.

The evaluation procedure is described in Annex, “Project Selection Criteria”.

Additional information

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure, please contact:

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Joint Secretariat

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All relevant information and documents shall be available on the Cooperation Programme website, which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JS) and the potential beneficiaries.

The applicant may pose questions in writing to the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat, no later than eleven (11) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals.

Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs

Evgenia Fotoniata

Annexes:

Supporting Documents:

1. Programme and Project Manual
2. Project Selection Criteria
3. User Guide for electronic submission
4. Partnership Agreement
5. Subsidy Contract
6. Guidance for the eligibility of expenditures

Applicant Package documents:

1. Application Form
2. Partnership Declaration
3. Declaration of not generating revenues
4. Co-Financing Statement-Non Double Financing
5. State Aid Declaration
6. Specification of Budget Cost and the respective Manual
7. Maturity Sheet
8. Legal Entity Form