



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Interreg - IPA CBC 
Greece - Albania

**Managing Authority of European Territorial
Cooperation Programmes
Joint Secretariat**
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2ND CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
INTERREG IPA II CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
“GREECE-ALBANIA 2014-2020”

1. Context

The Interreg IPA II 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 II (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:

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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 II 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 42.312.029,00€. This amount consists of **35.965.222,00€** EU contribution and **6.346.807,00€** national contributions. The national counterpart rate for both Greece and Albania is 15%. For the 2nd Call for project proposals, for the project beneficiaries from Albania, the 15% of the national counterpart will be covered by the beneficiaries own contribution.

Suspension clause

This Call for proposals is subject to the signing of the Multiannual Financing Agreement between the European Commission, Managing Authority and Albania (for Albanian beneficiaries).

2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Operational Programme approved by the European Commission (Decision C(2015) 5482 of 30-07-2015), 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). Applicants are also invited to study carefully the Programme and Project Manual.

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 of European Integration of Albania www.integrimi.gov.al.

3. Priority Axes, Thematic priorities, Specific objectives

The present call for proposals is open to both Priorities Axes and to the six related Specific Objectives of the programme, namely:

Table 1: Programme Priority Specific Objectives and Indicative type of actions under this call

Priority Axis	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Indicative type of actions*
1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure	(c) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks & services and investing in cross-border water, waste & energy systems and facilities	1.1 Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning/construction/rehabilitation of water mgmt/supply infrastructure and drinking water quality monitoring systems; • Measures to reduce non-revenue water (NRW); • Planning, construction and rehabilitation of border crossings, planning, construction and rehabilitation of road network; • Planning, construction and rehabilitation of maritime port infrastructure, replacement/improvement of port superstructure and construction of multi-modal facilities; Planning, construction and rehabilitation of small wastewater management infrastructure and surface water quality monitoring systems; • Smart transport systems and ICT applications in the transport and flow of people sector; • Monitoring of the emissions from transport activities; • Planning, construction and supply activities for sustainable solid waste management infrastructure/actions, including recycling and composting.
	(b) Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management	1.2 Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint initiatives for environmental protection; • Actions for the restoration, protection and efficient management of natural protected areas; • Joint initiatives for monitoring and preventing air pollution;

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Priority Axis	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Indicative type of actions*
		1.3 Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale investments in energy efficiency and use of RES in public building and public spaces; • Upgrading large – scale data centers to optimize their power consumption, using renewable energy sources; • Pilot actions for energy saving in public buildings (e.g. oxygen production in hospitals); • Smart energy saving by using advanced ICT technologies; • Joint public awareness initiatives for energy efficiency and the use of RES in residences and businesses.
		1.4 Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires	<p>Two types of actions are promoted to contribute to the Specific Objective (hard investments in equipment, systems, etc and soft interventions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments for increasing disaster resilience/institutional; • Joint early warning and disaster management systems; • Small scale construction works for risk prevention and response to natural hazards and the consequences of climate change; • Joint public awareness initiatives related to natural and man-made disaster management (civil protection) covering all public groups; • Joint activities for improving the planning, cooperation and response capacity for disaster management; • Software for the prediction and management of: pest outbreaks, epidemics, severe natural phenomena and protocols for their treatment.
2. Boosting the local economy	(d) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	2.1 Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration schemes between businesses and non-businesses (e.g. museums) in the tourism/culture area; • Development of business support services such as information and communications technology systems, business consulting, etc to support tourist economic activity; • Capacity-building actions in the field of cultural preservation; • Rehabilitation/protection/promotion of cultural assets of cross-border

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Priority Axis	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Indicative type of actions*
			<p>significance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border area-wide cultural initiatives; • Rehabilitation of buildings of special architectural and cultural characteristic; • Construction / Rehabilitation of infrastructures for the promotion of local products or/and cultural products (e.g. exhibition centers, local auction places, upgrading and consolidation interventions of local, biological markets, musical and theatre scenes); • Construction / Rehabilitation of camps, environmental and agro touristic parks.
	<p>(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 internationalization</p>	<p>2.2 Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new and improvement/modernization of existing business-hosting facilities; • Development of business support services to support cross-border economic activity; • Development of services fostering productivity; • Creation of clusters or other types of “networks” ”(incubators) in accordance with approved Regional RIS; • Joint or common (horizontal) export support services for cross-border businesses and competitiveness facilitation; • Cross-border business-plans with pilot applications of cross-border collaborative schemes between individual businesses and/or sectors/sub-sectors

*More detailed information about the indicative type of actions can be found at the programme document.

The results that the partner States seek to achieve with Union support are:

- a. **Specific Objective 1.1: Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management.** The aim of this specific objective is to:
 - Increase share of water resources used sustainably.
 - Increase capacity for wastewater treatment.
 - Increase share of solid waste managed sustainably.
 - Improve maturity of cross-border accessibility interventions.
- b. **Specific Objective 1.2: Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources.** The aim of this specific objective is to:
 - Better management of natural-protected sites.
 - Improve institutional capacity and coordinated policies in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.
- c. **Specific Objective 1.3: Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES.** The aim of this specific objective is to:
 - Reduce overall energy consumption in the public sector.
 - Increase share of energy from RES in the public sector.
 - Increase population awareness regarding energy efficiency.
- d. **Specific Objective 1.4: Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires.** The aim of this specific objective is to:
 - Improve cross border preparedness for effective management of natural disasters.
 - Coordinate decision making tools and early warning systems.
 - Reduce of damages from forest fires.
 - Improve Civil Protection – Better Informed Public.
- e. **Specific Objective 2.1: Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area.** The aim of this specific objective is to:
 - Contribute to growth in the tourist business sector.
 - Improve capacity to sustainably use natural and cultural resources in the cross-border area.
 - Preserve/protect/promote cultural and natural assets.
- f. **Specific Objective 2.2: Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness.** The aim of this specific objective is to:

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- Improve capacities of regional actors/facilities to support the development/growth of businesses.
- Improve cross-border business survival.
- Create collaborative schemes of businesses.
- Increase exports of CB businesses.

4. Programme Area

The eligible programme area is indicated in the table below:

Table 2: Eligible NUTS III or equivalent regions

Country	Regional Unit/Region
GREECE	Regional Unit of Grevena
	Regional Unit of Kastoria
	Regional Unit of Florina
	Regional Unit of Arta
	Regional Unit of Thesprotia
	Regional Unit of Ioannina
	Regional Unit of Preveza
	Regional Unit of Zakynthos
	Regional Unit of Kerkira
	Regional Unit of Kefallinia
	Regional Unit of Lefkada
ALBANIA	Region of Berat
	Region of Gjirokaster
	Region of Korçë
	Region of Vlorë

Beneficiaries from the Regional Unit of Kozani in Greece, will also be eligible as per the flexibility rule as stipulated in Article 44(2b) of Regulation (EU) No.447/2014, “the total amount allocated under the cross border cooperation programme to operations located outside the Programme area does not exceed the 20% of the support from the Union at Programme level.

This, however, does not necessarily mean that a fixed share of 20% of the programme’s budget is reserved for beneficiaries outside the eligible area.

5. Budget available

The total available budget for the 2nd call is 13.782.817,00 € (including Union Support and National Counterpart) and is **indicatively** allocated per Priority Axis/Specific Objective, as follows:

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Table 3: Budget Available for Beneficiaries

PRIORITY AXIS:		INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATION (€)		
P.A No	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EUROPEAN UNION CONTRIBUTION	NATIONAL COUNTERPART	TOTAL BUDGET
1	1.1 Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management	4.186.089,00	738.722,00	4.924.811,00
	1.2 Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources	630.000,00	111.176,00	741.176,00
	1.3 Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES	719.305,00	126.937,00	846.242,00
	1.4 Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires	630.000,00	111,176,00	741.176,00
2	2.1 Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area	3.000.000,00	529.412,00	3.529,412,00
	2.2 Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness	2.550.000,00	450.000,00	3.000.000,00
TOTAL BUDGET		11.715.394,00	2.067.423,00	13.782.817,00

The Union Support rate is 85%.

In case where the indicative amount foreseen for the specific Priority Axis cannot be used due to the insufficient quality or the low number of proposals received, the Joint Monitoring Committee reserves the right to reallocate the remaining funds to another Priority Axis, with the conditions of Programme amendment (if applicable).

After the evaluation, a ranking list of the evaluated project proposals per priority axis will be drawn up. In addition, a reserve list of projects may also be drawn up following the same criteria to be used if more funds should become available. The selection of projects from the reserve list will be made on the basis of its ranking and the marking it received. The Joint Monitoring Committee may decide not to finance projects on the reserve list. In case there will be savings from the overall budget, those funds will be allocated for the future Calls for Proposals.

6. Eligible Partnerships

Project proposals must include **at least** one beneficiary from the Programme area of each country participating in the Programme. For Albania, an organization from central government may be considered as beneficiary from the programme area according to its competences.

All beneficiaries should be entitled to implement the project activities.

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All projects 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.

Each applicant can participate as Lead beneficiary in no more than two (2) project proposals. In case of universities and research centres the above-mentioned limitation is considered per department. If an applicant does not conform to the previous rule, as explicitly stated above, **all of its project proposals will be rejected.**

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.

The total number of beneficiaries must not exceed six (6) including the Lead beneficiary and should not be less than two (2).

This call for proposals is only addressed to:

- a. national, regional or local **public authorities**;
- b. **bodies governed by public law**¹, having legal personality, other than legal entities defined under paragraph a, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (needs not having an industrial or commercial character), and which fulfil at least one of the following conditions:
 - I. be financed, for the most part, by the national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law or
 - II. be subject to management supervision by those bodies or
 - III. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;
- c. **private organisations**: non profit organizations founded according to applicable legal framework/law in the respective country can be eligible under the following conditions:
 - I. they do not have a commercial or industrial character or activities
 - II. they are non-profit² and have a legal personality.

Bodies governed by public law (under category b. above) and private organisations (under category c. above) must be operational for at least 24 months before the launching of the call for proposals. If a body governed by public law or a private organization is participating through a branch located at the Programme area, the branch must be operational for at least 24 months before the launching of the call for proposals. The documentation required for the eligibility of a branch is described in paragraph 8.

It should be noted that private entities not falling under the above categories b. and c. are not eligible.

¹ *Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 1(9) of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0114:0240:EN:PDF>) and in compliance with the national legislation of each participating country.*

² *Profit is the making of gain in business activities for the benefit of the owners of the business (paying out dividends).*

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

7. How to apply – deadline

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

A Project Proposal consists of:

1. The ‘Application Form’ (standard **excel form** provided), **stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary, in original version, (not copy or digital).
2. The ‘Partnership Declaration’ (standard form provided), **stamped** and **signed** by all the participating beneficiaries.
3. The ‘Co-Financing Statement - Non double financing’ (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by each beneficiary separately.
4. The ‘Declaration of not generating revenues’ (standard form provided) **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary. In case of revenue generating projects, 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).
5. The “Declaration for the non distribution of profits” (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** only by beneficiaries under category of article 7.c (private organisations).
6. The ‘Specification of Budget Costs’ (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by the Lead beneficiary.
7. The ‘Maturity Sheet’ per beneficiary (standard form provided), **completed, stamped** and **signed** by each beneficiary separately.
8. Decision of the designated body of each Project Beneficiary (e.g. Municipal Council, Board of Directors, etc) stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each Beneficiary or the national legislation.
9. For
 - bodies governed by public law (of article 7.b above) official documents providing evidence that the requirements of article 7.b of this call are met. In case that the nature of a public body is not clearly delivered from the submitted documents, the JS or MA may request additional documentation for clarification.
 - private organisations (of article 7.c above) :
 - Statutes including all modifications for the past 2 years.
 - Official document indicating the composition of the administrative/managerial or supervisory board.
 - Official document indicating the supervision by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law (if applicable)
 - Official document indicating the sources of the body’s revenues, during the last two years preceding the presentation of the project proposal.
 - Declaration for the non distribution of profits.
 - Any official document certified by a public administration authority, providing that the organisation operates for at least two years before the launch of the specific call for proposals.

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- bodies governed by public law (of article 7.b above) and for private organisations (of article 7.c above) the existence of a branch within the Programme area or the participating countries is documented with at least one of the following documents:
 - Official document for the establishment/registration of a branch issued by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
 - Copy of the rental contract, submitted to and validated by the respective Public Authority (e.g. Tax Service of the respective country)
 - Payroll sheet, validated by the competent Public Authority (e.g. Ministry of Labour)
 - Operational costs bills (e.g. electricity, telephone etc.)

For bodies governed by public law (of article 7.b above) that have been established by a Law or Presidential Decree, the submission of a copy of the respective Official Government Gazette where the establishment of the branch is being mentioned is sufficient.

In any case, the documents above must provide evidence that the branch was established and in operation for the period required by the call under each type of beneficiary/category of beneficiary.

10. Infrastructure Projects (where infrastructure activities are foreseen in the AF) **must include** the relevant accompanying documents (licenses, approval of feasibility study or any other required approvals, construction permits, preliminary designs/studies, priced bill of quantities signed by the respective body, technical specifications, technical designs, a document certifying the land/building ownership or documentation of transferring the operation rights for the period of 5 years after the end of the project environmental impact assessment etc., where applicable), any other required approvals according to the National Legislation proving the maturity of the proposed project.
11. The Beneficiaries in Albania must additionally submit, **stamp** and **sign**:
 - a. The "Legal Entity" Form (standard form provided)

Particularly partners from Albania should take into account the following:

- The Legal Entity Form must be duly completed and signed by the each beneficiary in Albania, accompanied by the justifying documents which are requested therein.

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

12. A CD/DVD including the electronic version of the proposal as described below.

The CD/DVD, must be submitted in 2 copies and include the Application Form in excel format and all documents referred to under point 2-9 and 11 in electronic version or scanned version in case of documents signed and stamped.

The non-submission of the above mentioned documentation (points 1-11), in hard copy stamped and signed (where applicable) in one original and one copy, and the CD/DVD ROM (point 12) in two copies, will lead to the project proposal rejection. In case there are differences between the electronic and the paper version, **the paper version is the binding one.**

Regarding the "Partnership Declaration" (point 2), the JS shall accept the signature of each beneficiary on a separate page.

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10. 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 twenty four (24) months after the signing of the Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary. Projects that have started their implementation before the signing of the contract, and in any case after 1/1/2014, should not have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposals.

11. Evaluation of proposals

After submission, each project proposal will be evaluated based on specific selection criteria and will be subjected to a two-phase selection procedure, carried out by the Joint Secretariat (JS) with the support of Operating Structure (OS) and, if necessary, external experts, as referred in the Interreg IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece-Albania 2014-2020” (Section: Submission of Proposals and Selection of Operations).

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

Additional information

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

**Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism
Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes**

Address: 65, Georgikis Sholis Avenue, Pilea
570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece
Mr Vassilis Charitantis
Tel: +30 2310 469678 Fax: +30 2310 469602
Email: vharitantis@mou.gr
Website: <http://www.interreg.gr>

**Ministry of European Integration
Albanian National Authority**

Address: Bulevard Deshmoret e kombit
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Joint Secretariat

Balkan Center, Building D, 3rd floor 10th km Thessaloniki – Thermi,
570 01 Thessaloniki, Greece
Mr. George Papadopoulos
Tel: +30 2310 024075 Fax: +30 2310 024078
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Website: www.greece-albania.eu

Information Sessions regarding this call shall take place in both countries. The date and time of these events will be concurrently announced 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 site of the Ministry European Integration of Albania <http://www.integrimi.gov.al>

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Potential applicants may pose questions in written to the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat, no later than eleven (11) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals. The answers shall be agreed by both the national authorities and will be published at the above sites. Answers shall be published no later than six (6) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals.

Potential applicants are invited to regularly consult the above sites.

Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs

Evgenia Fotoniata

Annexes:

1. Applicant’s Package (all standard forms provided)
2. Programme and Project Manual