



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS**

**Interreg - IPA CBC**   
**Greece - Albania**

SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, COHESION  
FUND AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND  
PROGRAMMES

Date 25/11/2019  
Ref. No: 303110/MA 7376  
ADA:  
**Code: A5**

MANAGING AUTHORITY OF EUROPEAN  
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

JOINT SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERREG IPA  
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
"GREECE-ALBANIA 2014-2020"

Address: 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea  
570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

**5<sup>th</sup> 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 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

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

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 5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals, the 15% of the national counterpart for the beneficiaries from Albania, will be covered by the beneficiaries own contribution.

The proposed project in the framework of this Call will contribute to the achievement of significant goals of the Programme. Within this project, one output and one result indicator of the Programme are expected to be achieved. More particular, the result indicator “Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)” should be decreased from 15.010,89 to 13.450,00 hectares and the output indicator “Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures” should reach the target value of 115.000 inhabitants.

According to the Programme document,

- Investments for increasing disaster resilience/institutional capacity (equipment, vehicles, small infrastructure, etc) will be funded.
- Funds will be channelled to forest fire prevention and response. Any other actions will be limited and complementary

The Headquarters of the Hellenic Fire Corps, the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Albanian Ministry of Defense (General Department of Civil Emergencies) are the competent national authorities’ to improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires. The Municipality of Berat will participate in the partnership to implement pilot activities in the Albanian programme area.

## 2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposals, applicants are invited to consult the Cooperation Programme approved by the European Commission (Decision C(2015) 5482 of 30-07-2015, as

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

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 the relevant annexes attached to this call. These documents are available on the Programme’s website at [www.greece-albania.eu](http://www.greece-albania.eu), on the Managing Authority’s website at <http://www.interreg.gr> 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 1.4 under the Priority Axis 1:

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

Priority Axis	<b>1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure</b>
Thematic Priority	(b) Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management
Specific Objective	1.4 Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires
Potential Restricted interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of the existing Fire Station Buildings</li> <li>• Purchase of equipment such as fire fighting vehicles, disaster prevention and management equipment etc.</li> <li>• Common training Programmes</li> <li>• Awareness raising activities</li> </ul>

**The expected results** that the participating countries seek to achieve with Union support are:

- 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.

### 4. Budget available

**The total available budget for the 5<sup>th</sup> call is 2.500.000,00 €** (of which 2.125.000,00€ Union Support and 375.000,00€ 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.

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. Eligibility of expenditure for beneficiaries from Albania commences on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2014.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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
<p><u>Priority Axis 1</u>: Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure</p> <p><u>Specific Objective 1.4</u>: Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headquarters of the Hellenic Fire Corps</li> <li>• Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania</li> <li>• Ministry of Defense (General Department of Civil Emergencies)</li> <li>• Municipality of Berat</li> </ul>

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.

## 9. How to apply – deadline

In order to submit a project proposal, the applicant 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:

**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).**

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

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,**

The submission of the project proposal to the MIS is obligatory. The fields of the MIS system are in accordance with the fields of the Application Form (excel file) apart for the detailed description sheet.

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

1. The “*Application Form*” as it is produced by the MIS in **PDF** format. The Lead Beneficiary has to print the file that is produced by the MIS, sign and stamp it and upload it in the MIS.
2. The Application Form in excel file. Regarding the excel file, only the following sections is obligatory to be filled in:
  - a. Cover Page: Title and Acronym
  - b. Project Identification: only Priority Axis, Thematic Priority, Specific Objective and brief summary of the project
  - c. Detailed description: all sections
  - d. Partnership section: all sections
3. The “Partnership Declaration” (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by all the participating beneficiaries, uploaded in PDF format;
4. 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](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf);
5. The “Co-Financing Statement and Non-Double Financing” completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately, uploaded in PDF format.
6. The “State aid declaration” (standard form provided) completed, stamped and signed by Greek beneficiary, uploaded in PDF format;
7. The “Specification of Budget Costs” in excel file (standard form provided), completed for the total project budget, uploaded in excel format;
8. The “Maturity Sheet” per beneficiary (standard form provided), completed, stamped and signed by each beneficiary separately;
9. The relevant Bills of Quantities and Costs (BoQ) to the foreseen infrastructure activities and / or technical specification of the equipment to be purchased by the beneficiaries, which must be stamped and signed by the Legal Representative, uploaded in PDF format. The JS may also

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

request additional documentation for clarification of the above issues, during the evaluation procedure;

10. 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;
11. 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](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 24/01/2020, 16:00 local time (Eastern European standard time).**

#### **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. Especially, articles 14 (Regional investment aid), 53 (Aid for culture and heritage conservation) and 56 (Investment aid for local infrastructures) are applied.

#### **11. Evaluation procedure**

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 5<sup>th</sup> call for project proposals and the approved selection criteria.

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

#### **Additional information**

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

**Ministry of Development & Investments**

**Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes / Unit B2**

Address: 65, Georgikis Sholis Avenue, Pilea

570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: +30 2310 469600 Fax: +30 2310 469602

5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals  
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020”

Email: [interreg@mou.gr](mailto:interreg@mou.gr)

Website: <http://www.interreg.gr>

**Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Albanian National Authority**

Address: Bulevardi “Gjergj Fishta”, Nr. 6,

Mr Gentian Xhaxhiu

Tel: +355 69 2612 213

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

Website: <http://www.punetejashtme.gov.al/>

**Joint Secretariat**

65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea,

570 01 Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: +30 2310 469680 Fax: +30 2310 469602

Email: [jts\\_gral@mou.gr](mailto:jts_gral@mou.gr)

Website: [www.greece-albania.eu](http://www.greece-albania.eu)

All relevant information and documents shall be available on the 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 ten (10) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals.

**Special Secretariat for ERDF, CF & ESF Programmes**

**Niki Dandolou**

**Annexes:**

**A. Applicant’s Package documents:**

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

**B. Supporting Documents:**

1. 5<sup>th</sup> Call for project proposals
2. Programme and Project Manual
3. Project Selection Criteria
4. User Guide for electronic submission
5. Partnership Agreement
6. Subsidy Contract
7. Specification of Budget Cost Manual
8. Guidance for the eligibility of expenditures