

Interreg - IPA CBC   
Greece - Albania



# Drafting of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme “Greece-Albania 2021-2027”

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2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE OF CONSULTATION

WORKSHOP ON PRIORITY AXIS 1-

SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO GREENER AND MORE RESILIENT CROSS-BORDER REGIONS

# 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Consultations Workshops

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Aim of the 2nd phase of public consultation is to further elaborate the outcomes of the 1st phase of consultation with stakeholders and the proposed Programme Strategy.

The first workshop regards the first priority axis proposed for the new Programme Strategy:

Priority Axis 1: Supporting transition to greener and more resilient cross-border regions

Presentation of the Priority Axis-Needs and Challenges of the Programme area

Review of proposed specific objectives per Priority Axis and collection on feedback on indicative interventions, result and output indicators.



# Programme Area

## Greece

1.EL531 (Grevena)

2.EL532 (Kastoria)

3.EL533 (Florina)

**4.EL531 (Kozani)**

5.EL541 (Arta)

6.EL 541 (Preveza)

7.EL542 (Thesprotia)

8.EL543 (Ioannina)

9.EL621 (Zakynthos)

10.EL622 (Kerkyra)

11.EL623 (Kefallinia, Ithaki)

12.EL624 (Lefkada)

## Albania

1.AL031 Berat

2. AL033 Gjirokaštër

3.AL034 Korçë

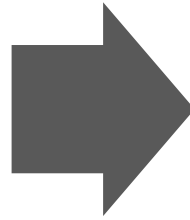
4.AL035 Vlorë

5.AL032 Fier

**Analyzed on NUTS III Level (2021 classification)**

**Regional Unit of Kozani and the Region of Fier are the new eligible areas.**

Priority Axis 1: Supporting transition to greener and more resilient cross-border regions



Policy Objective 2 A greener Europe

Improving their energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources

Enhancing the protection of biodiversity and common natural resources

The adaption and mitigation of climate change risks

# Proposed Specific Objectives

SO1.1-Promoting energy efficiency measures	SO1.2-Promoting renewable energy	SO1.3-Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	SO1.4-Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of greenhouse gas emission rates</li> <li>• Promotion of energy saving actions</li> <li>• Support of transition from the de-lignification of electricity generating sector in Western Macedonia</li> <li>• Deployment of technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Raise awareness about the exploitation of renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Reduction of greenhouse emission rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and valorization of common natural resources</li> <li>• Development of joint measures for protection of biodiversity</li> <li>• Development of networks for protection of habitats and common ecosystems (EUSAIR flagship)</li> <li>• Raising awareness for better solid waste management and recycle and reuse</li> <li>• Promotion of circular economy</li> <li>• Improvement of wastewater management and water quality monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of measures for mitigation and adjustment to climate change</li> <li>• Development of joint measures for monitoring, prevention from natural risks</li> <li>• Protection from coastal erosion</li> <li>• Adoption of measures and development of warning tools against natural disasters</li> </ul>

## Which are the main objectives of PO 2 of the new Cohesion Policy?

Promoting energy efficiency measures

Promoting renewable energy

Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level

Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

Promoting sustainable water management

Promoting the transition to a circular economy

Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

## Energy Efficiency and Renewable energy resources

- In Albania there is no wide-reaching progress in the field of renewable energy sources, as well as in the field of energy-saving in buildings.
- In Greece during the past years there have been funding initiatives on national and regional level for promoting energy-saving actions for public building, businesses and private housing.
- Adjustment of the public and industrial sector to new energy efficient resources is becoming an important issue for both countries. In Greece an important impact is expected by the implementation of the Just Development Transition Plan for the lignite areas in the Region of Western Macedonia.
- More than 38% of the country's electricity comes from lignite mined in two areas: Western Macedonia (286,000 inhabitants), most notably the Kozani prefecture (150,000 inhabitants) and the much smaller Megalopolis area of the Peloponnese region (6,000 inhabitants).
- Furthermore, over 100,000 inhabitants in Kozani and Florina are currently connected to district heating systems that receive their heat from the lignite-fueled power plants.

## Climate Change and natural risks

- All regional units of Greece are characterized by medium negative or highest negative impact. The National Adaptation Strategy of Greece that was published in 2016 categorizes the Greek regions within the cross-border areas as highly vulnerable especially in the sectors of mining industry (Western Macedonia), agriculture, fisheries and forestry (Region of Epirus) and tourism (Region of Ionian Islands).
- The vulnerability of Albania's energy supply and agriculture sector to climatic changes, combined with a series of recent heavy floods and landslides, are elevating climate change preparedness as a priority within Albania's development planning
- High vulnerability to natural disasters, especially: floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, fires and earthquakes. The years 2017 and 2018 saw increasing numbers of forest fires in Greece.
- Greece faces multiple and severe natural and environmental risks, in particular floods and wildfires.
- Causes of natural disasters in Albania are several, including: land management, deforestation, uncontrolled urbanization, incomplete infrastructure, problems of water management, and human activities



## Water management and water quality

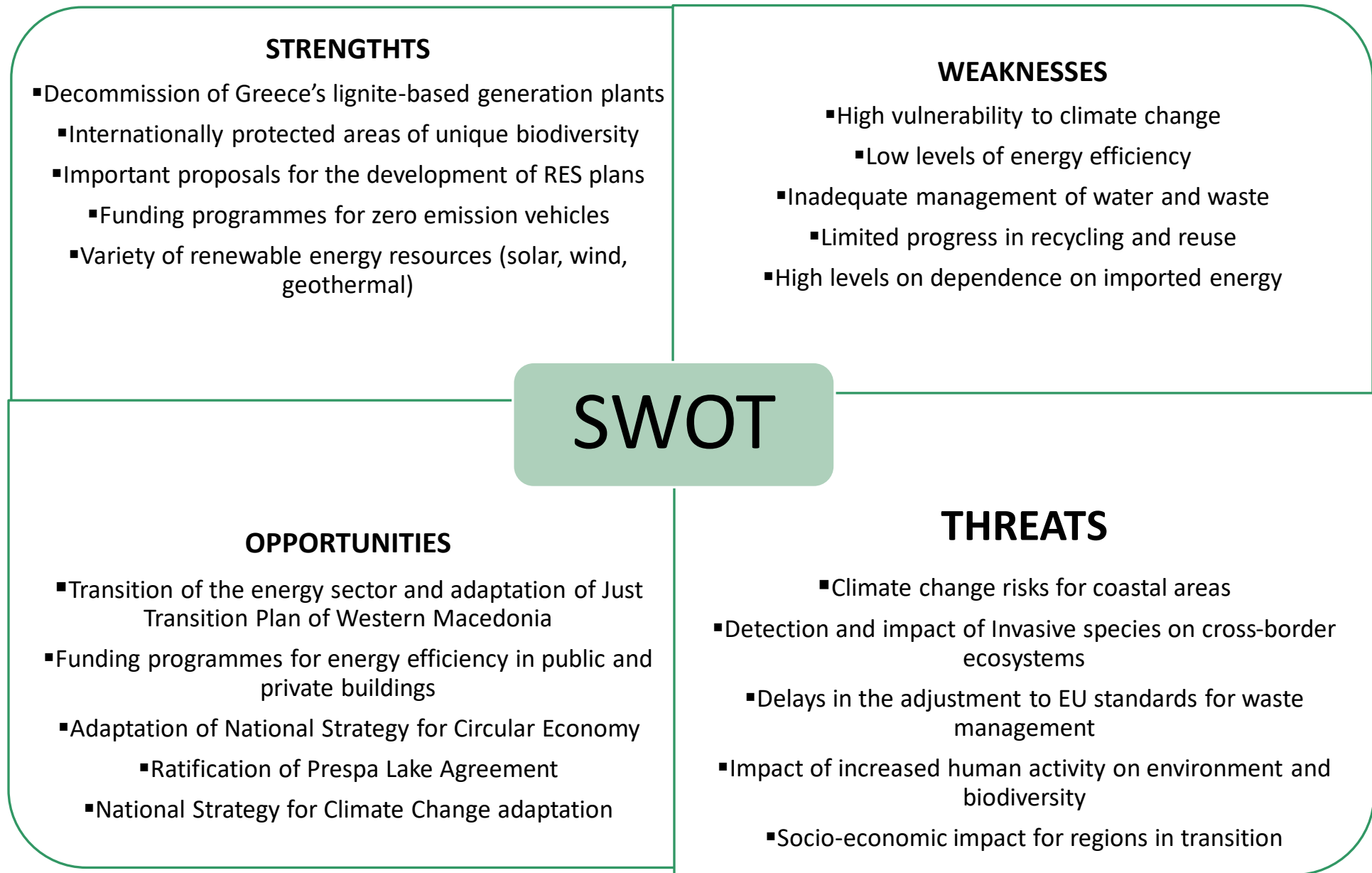
- Water supply and sewerage in Albania, still faces major problems such as: a) lack of adequate infrastructure in water and waste water management & treatment, b) need to increase the water utilities efficiency in urban and rural areas, c) large number of illegal connections.
- Greece still suffers from inefficiencies in the management of water waste.
- Issues of water quantity and quality problems in the Greek cross-border regions especially in the Region of Ionian Islands.
- Need for essential quantity and quality of drinking water, as well as the protection / management of the aquifer.

## Waste management and circular economy

- In Albania separate collection of waste streams and economic instruments to promote recycling and reuse and to prevent waste generation remain limited.
- There are major structural problems with waste management in Greece. Municipal waste generation has remained at the same level in recent years, being slightly above the 2017 EU average (504 kg vs around 487 kg/y/inhabitant).
- Greece disposes the majority of its municipal waste in landfills (80 %, vs EU average of 24 %), with only 19 % being recycled (EU average 46 %). The landfill rate has decreased modestly and the recycling rate has slightly increased.
- From the Greek regions' problems in waste management and recycle the most intense is located in the Region of Ionian Islands especially during summer season, as a result of tourism activity.

## Environment

- The eligible area combines a wide variety of geomorphological features: mountain ranges, rolling hills, valleys and small plains, a long coastal line and a significant number of islands, rivers, lakes and lagoons.
- The eligible area includes some important cross-border natural assets.
- The Great Prespa Lake with a surface of 281.7 km<sup>2</sup> is shared between Albania (18%), Greece (14%) and the former Republic of North Macedonia (68%).
- The river of Aoos (and its tributary Drinos), which originates from the Northern Pindus mountain range, flows for 70 kms through Greek territory and for 190 kms through Albanian territory and flows out into the Adriatic Sea, north of the city of Vlorë.
- Sites of international interest include Lake Mikri Prespa in Greece, which part of the Prespes National Park and the National Park of Butrint in Albania (both protected by the Ramsar convention).
- More than 60 areas in the cross-border regions of Greece are part of the Natura 2000 network.



## Ranking of Needs and challenges

Which of the identified needs/challenges do you consider more important for the cross-border area? (Please select up to 2 identified needs).

High vulnerability to  
climate change

Low level of  
preparedness against  
natural disasters

Limited progress in  
the improvement of  
water management  
and water quality

Protection of  
Biodiversity and  
common natural  
resources

Limited progress in  
the fields of  
renewable energy  
and energy efficiency

Low performance  
rates in recycling and  
inadequate solid  
waste management

## Needs and Challenges of the Cross-border area?

Can you identify other needs of the cross-border area of higher priority that can be targeted under Priority Axis 1?

## Ranking of Selected Specific Objectives

Which one of the selected Specific Objectives do you consider more important for the cross-border area?

SO1.1-Promoting energy efficiency measures

SO1.2-Promoting renewable energy

SO1.3-Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

SO1.4-Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

## Evaluation of the Selected Specific Objectives

Do you believe that interventions of SO 1.1-Promoting energy efficiency measures and SO 1.2-Promoting renewable energy could be supported by SO 1.3 or SO 1.4?

SO1.3-Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

SO1.4-Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

No



## Other Specific Objectives

Could you identify other specific objectives of higher priority for your intervention area or sector than the ones proposed? (Select one of the following specific objectives or indicate an other).

Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level

Promoting sustainable water management

Promoting the transition to a circular economy

Other

## Other Specific Objectives

If you chose other in the previous question please indicate which is the other specific objective you consider of higher priority for the Programme Area.

**The above POLL which took place during the Workshop of Priority Axis 1 is available at:**  
<https://forms.gle/nFcftSENQMBzM1CU9>

## Indicators in the new Programming Period

- Common output and result indicators are set in the ERDF and CF Regulation, grouped indicatively per policy objective.
- **Expected change is reflected in Result Indicators:** short term effects of the intervention, with reference to direct addressees, population targeted or usage of infrastructure ('direct' results).
- **Output Indicators reflect** specific deliverables of the intervention (products or services produced during implementation).
- The main difference from the 2014-2020 programming period regards the concept of **“Result”**.
- In 2021-2027 “Result” is directly connected with the implemented interventions and the data for their achievement will derive from the activities and the projects implemented.
- The set of common indicator is built in a way that data can be collected from projects or directly from the monitoring system of the managing authority. For some of the result indicators (ex: SMEs), there could be also additional options for data sources such as administrative registries, surveys, or other national databased.

## Output indicators: Milestones 2024, Targets 2029

- All outputs selected in the programme linked to SO
- Milestones to be achieved by the end of the year 2024 for output indicators
- Targets to be achieved by the end of the year 2029 for output indicators
- Baseline always 0
- The output indicators used for a project should be the most representative for the intervention

## Result indicators: Baselines, Targets 2029

- All results selected in the programme linked to SO
- No milestones
- Baseline – 0 or reference value (value before the start of intervention)
- The result indicators should be chosen such that they reflect the main objectives of the interventions.

# Output Indicators

- RCO 19 - Public buildings supported to improve energy performance
- RCO 22 - Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)
- RCO 97 – Number of energy communities and renewable energy communities supported\*
- RCO 23 - Digital management systems for smart grids
- RCO 24 - New or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems\*
- RCO 25 - Coastal strip, river banks and lakeshores, and landslide protection newly built or consolidated to protect people, assets and the natural environment
- RCO 26 - Green infrastructure built for adaptation to climate change
- RCO 27 - National/ regional/ local strategies addressing climate change adaptation
- RCO 28 - Areas covered by protection measures against forest fires
- RCO 30 - Length of new or consolidated pipes for household water connections
- RCO 31 - Length of sewage collection networks newly constructed or consolidated
- RCO 34 - Additional capacity for waste recycling
- RCO 37 - Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures in accordance with the prioritised action framework
- RCO 99 - Surface area outside Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures
- RCO 38 - Surface area of rehabilitated land supported

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- RCO 31 - Length of sewage collection networks newly constructed or consolidated
- RCO 34 - Additional capacity for waste recycling
- RCO 37 - Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures in accordance with the prioritised action framework
- RCO 99 - Surface area outside Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures
- RCO 38 - Surface area of rehabilitated land supported  RCR 28 - Buildings with improved energy classification (of which: residential, private non-residential, public non-residential)
- RCR 29 - Estimated greenhouse gas emissions
- RCR 31 - Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)
- RCR 32 – Renewable energy: Capacity connected to the grid (operational)
- RCR 33 - Users connected to smart grids
- RCR 35 - Population benefiting from flood protection measures
- RCR 36 - Population benefiting from forest fires protection measures
- RCR 37 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods and forest fires)
- RCR 96 – Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities\*
- RCR 41 - Population connected to improved water supply
- RCR 44 - Waste water properly treated
- RCR 95 -Population having access to new or upgraded green infrastructure in urban areas
- RCR 52 - Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or community activities

**Project idea Form**

What is it's scope?

Aim of the project idea form is to identify type of interventions that can be supported under Priority Axis 1 and the respective specific objectives. It also contributes in identifying common needs of the programme area and the how cross-border cooperation can achieve expected changes.



## Project idea Form

### What do you need to fill in?

Participants are asked to:

- Provide a brief description of an intervention that they consider to be important for the Programme area in relation to identified needs and link it to a specific objective of the Priority Axis.
- Specify contribution of suggested intervention to EUSAIR pillars or emblematic priorities.
- Indicate the type of beneficiaries and the type of interventions
- Identify result and output indicators according to the suggested intervention

### How and when to submit?

The “Project Idea Form” is available on Google Form and can be submitted electronically until 15/4/2021

<https://forms.gle/QZQYAzjU9ztAE7td9>