

CROSS BORDER COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between

PUGLIA REGION

and the

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERREG IPA II CBC
PROGRAMME “ITALY ALBANIA MONTENEGRO” 2014/2020 FOR THE
JOINT ACTIVATION OF PROJECT INITIATIVES**

The present Cross Border Cooperation Agreement defines and formalizes the relationship between the subscribers and sets forth the terms and understandings between them in relation to the subject matter herein.

Preamble



The European Commission adopted the Interreg IPA II CBC Programme “Italy Albania Montenegro” 2014/2020 in December 2015 (*Implementing Decision C(2015)9491 of 15 December 2015, as corrected by Commission Implementing Decision C(2016)2803 of 3 May 2016*).

Puglia Region is the Managing Authority of the CBC Programme. National Delegations of the Italian, Albanian and Montenegrin Governments compose the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The Programme is designed in the framework of the European strategy for a *smart, inclusive and sustainable growth* and the relevant national strategic documents.

The Priority Axes identified by the Programme are: 1) enhancing cooperation and competitiveness of SME's; 2) smart management of natural and cultural heritage for

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REGIONE PUGLIA



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the exploitation of cross border sustainable tourism and territorial attractiveness; 3) environment protection, risk management and low carbon strategy; 4) increasing cross border accessibility, promoting sustainable transport service and facilities and improving public infrastructures.

Following different previous political interlocutions, Puglia Region and the Albanian Ministry of Culture have identified art, culture, creative and cultural industries, cultural tourism, creative and industrial heritage, cultural and natural heritage, as well as culture landscape, as key issues, in terms of development challenges and needs, to increase the territorial attractiveness and to be dealt about within the Interreg IPA II CBC Programme “Italy Albania Montenegro” 2014/2020.

Both Puglia Region and the Ministry of Culture of Albania, in fact, agreed on the opportunity to support joint investments in these sectors.

Object of the Cross Border Cooperation Agreement

The parties agree on the necessity and opportunity to activate **joint project initiatives within the CBC IPA Programme “Italy, Albania, Montenegro” 2014/2020.**

The project initiatives will be mainly focused on the Programme Strategic Objectives 2.1 “Boost attractiveness of natural and cultural assets to improve a smart and sustainable economic development” and 2.2 “Increase the cooperation of the relevant key actors of the area for the delivery of innovative cultural and creative products”. When and if the case, project initiatives coherent with the institutional mission of both parties can be submitted for funding within other Strategic Objectives of the Cooperation Programme.

Puglia Region and the Ministry of Culture of Albania are committed to work together for the benefit of their respective territories, which will be actively involved into the project planning and possible future implementation.

The single project initiatives, either standard, strategic and thematic, to be agreed upon in terms of partnerships and specific contents after the publication of the Programme calls for proposals, will involve, in the respect of the Programme rules, Montenegrin partners, too.

The project initiatives will be built in coherence with the IPA Programme main features and will be submitted for funding to the Programme Managing bodies, for them to execute the proper assessment, eventually leading to the approval for funding.

The parties agree on a prompt operational startup of the projects planning, and ensure a tight coordination throughout this phase.

All project initiatives will be built according to the main topics and objectives of the EUSAIR Strategy, too, thus enforcing its implementation at Adriatic level.

The reference structure for Puglia Region – aimed to coordinate the project generation at regional level – is the Coordination of International Policies.

The referent for the Ministry of Culture of Albania is Mrs. Ledia Mirakaj, First Secretary, Representative of the Ministry of Culture at the Albanian Embassy in Rome, assisted by the European and Legal Approximation Department.

Duration of the Cross Border Cooperation Agreement

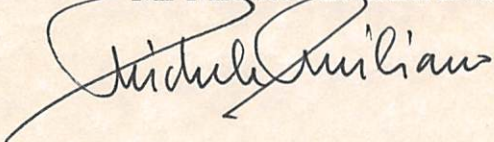
The present Cross Border Agreement becomes effective upon the joint signature of the subscribers, and it is meant to last for the period of duration of the CBC IPA Programme “Italy, Albania, Montenegro” 2014/2020.

Agreed on what above, we the undersigned, as representatives of the parties, proceed with the signature of the present document.

Bari, 12 September 2016

Puglia Region
The President

Mr Michele EMILIANO



Republic of Albania
The Minister of Culture

Ms Mirela KUMBARO

