

## ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME, 185 PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE FIRST CALL

The first Call for Proposals for standard projects of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme is closed; the call supports cooperation projects in the three involved countries with a budget of 25 million euro (including 15% national co-financing). The total number of submitted project proposals on the four priority axes is 185; proposals were submitted between 16 March and 30 May.

This was a busy time for the Programme Governing Bodies, marked by Info Days, meetings with potential beneficiaries and other activities aimed at providing concrete support for a high quality project development. The results will come out in the next phase, dedicated to the assessment of proposals.

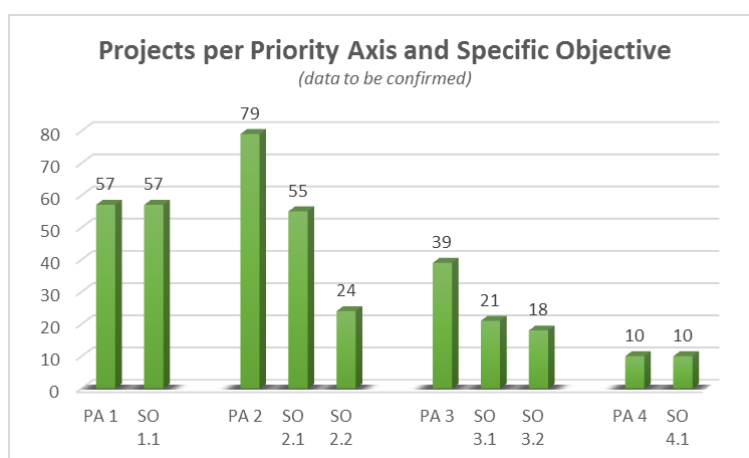
**Domenico Laforgia**, Programme Managing Authority, expressed his satisfaction and said: *"As Puglia Region we are proud to host a European programme involving the southern part of the Adriatic. We are even prouder of the large number of people involved and the massive participation in the call. It's now up to the programme partners, jointly, and in particular the European Commission, and the Italian, Albanian and Montenegrin governments, to ensure equal evaluation in order to select the best project proposals."*

Competitiveness of SMEs, tourism and culture, environment and energy, sustainable transport, are the four axes on which the applications are focused, with a prevalence of interest on the second axis; 70% of Lead Partners are Italian, 24% Albanians and 6% Montenegrin; over 1000 actors are involved, including partners and associates.

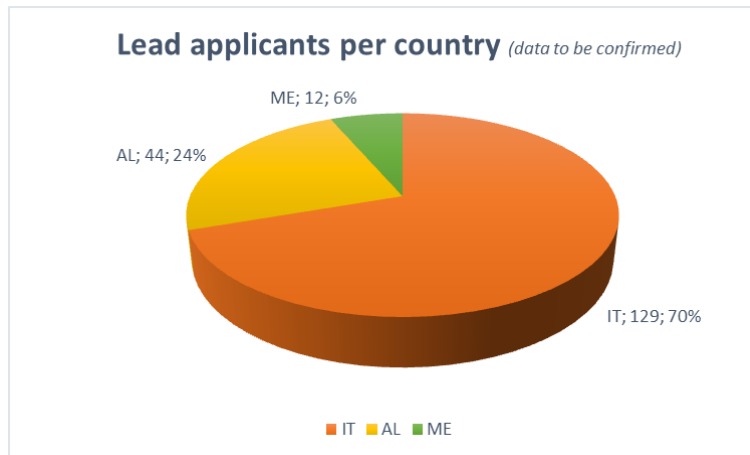
*"It's difficult to take stock before the evaluation of the proposals,"* commented **Mauro Novello**, Coordinator of the Programme Joint Secretariat. *"Certainly, two facts emerge: firstly, great interest and willingness to collaborate by all the actors in the three countries involved, even if Puglia, Molise, Albania and Montenegro are a brand new programme area. I would also like to point out our success in managing the call, informing beneficiaries, and setting up IT tools that worked until the last second, despite the mass of data and external factors affecting the speed of the system."*

Here is the first data extracted from the IT system, to be confirmed after the formal eligibility check:

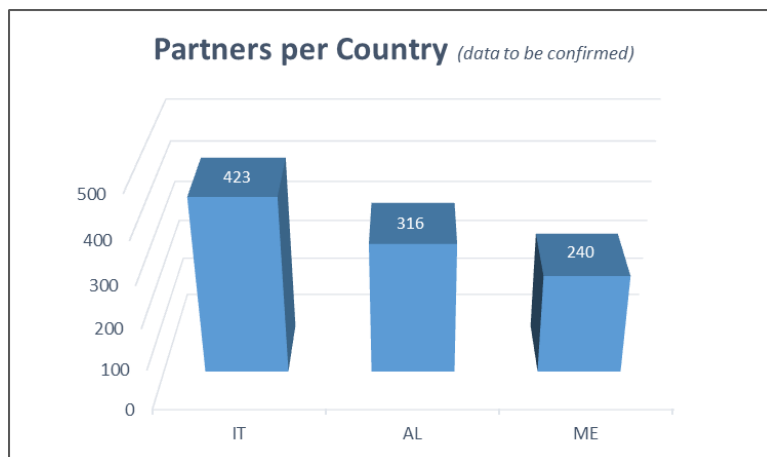
1. Total number of projects submitted: n. 185
2. Total no. of projects per Priority Axis / per Specific Objective



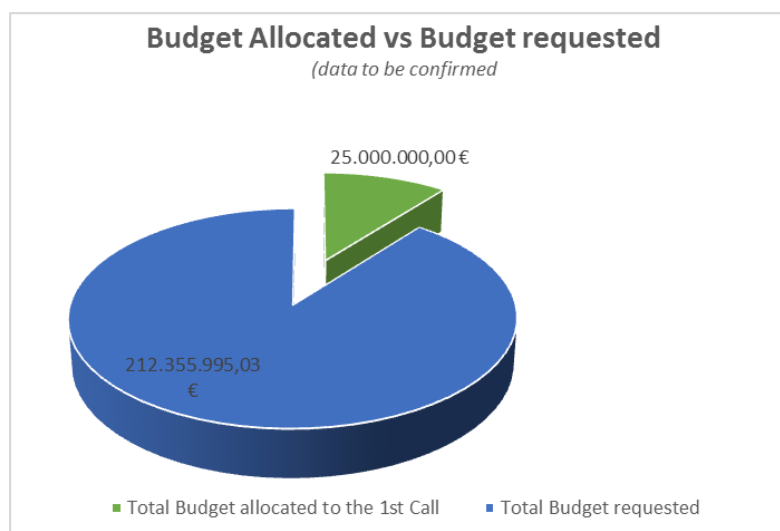
3. Total no. of Lead Partners per Country



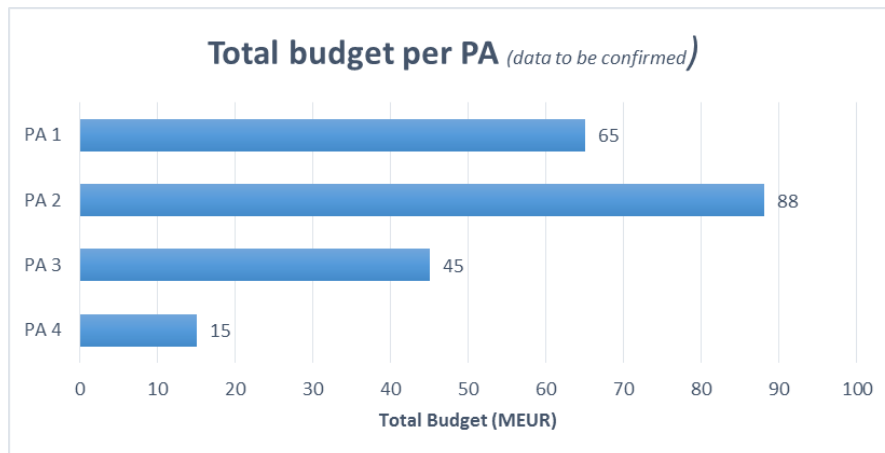
4. Total no. of Project Partners per Country



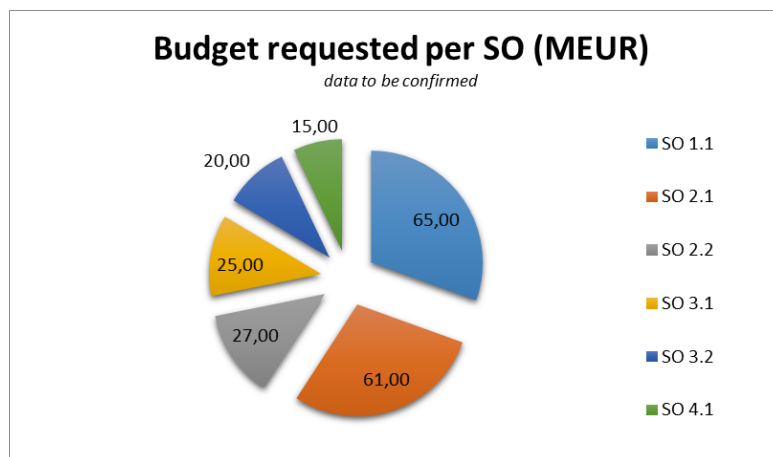
5. Total budget allocated vs budget requested ( 11.77%)



6. Budget requested per Priority Axis



## 7. Budget requested per Specific Objective



## 8. Interest indicators:

- Participants in Launch events & Info Days: 1500
- Email advice by JS: 270
- Personal advice by JS (Open Days & Help desk): 350
- FB community: 1010 likes - 1056 followers
- No. of registered users in the IT system: 423

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*The Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), has a total budget of 92.707.558,00 euro (including 15% national co-financing). Italy participates with two regions: Puglia - which also acts as Managing Authority - and Molise; Albania and Montenegro participate with the entire territory. The objective is to promote economic growth and to intensify cooperation in the low Adriatic area, by implementing joint actions between national and regional institutional and non-profit actors and by fostering smart, inclusive and sustainable development.*

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