

**Managing Authority of European
Territorial Cooperation Programmes**

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1st CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
"GREECE – ALBANIA"
IPA CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME
2007-2013

1. Context

The "Greece –Albania IPA Cross-border Programme" 2007-2013 is a cross border co-operation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

Territorial cooperation for the eligible regions constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity for the programming period 2007-2013. Polycentric spatial development with a new relationship between urban and rural areas, parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge, along with wise management of the natural and cultural heritage, represent already major objectives for balanced and sustainable growth. Within this framework, the **priorities** which constitute the policy outline for the convergence in the area of intervention of the specific Programme are:

- Priority 1: Enhancement of cross-border economic development
- Priority 2: Promotion and development of the environment and natural and cultural resources

The global objective of the programme is to increase the standard of living of the

population by promoting sustainable local development in the cross-border area.

The total budget (EU contribution and national funding) for the "Greece-Albania" IPA Cross-border Programme for the period 2007-2009 is **10.246.220 €**.

For the period 2007-2009, the EU contribution for actions within Member States (Greece) is 4.167.082 € and the EU contribution for actions within non Member States (Albania) is 3.986.593 €. Thereof, the total EU funding amounts to **8.153.675 €** and the total national funding amounts to **2.092.545 €**.

2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Operational Programme approved by the European Commission (Decision E(2008) 4708 of 5-9-2008), Council Regulation (EC) 1085/2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), Commission Regulation (EC) 718/2007 (implementing Regulation (EC) 1085/2006) and Commission Regulation (EU) 80/2010 of 28 January 2010 (amending Regulation (EC) No 718/2007). Applicants are also invited to study carefully the Programme Manual.

These documents are available on the Programme website at <http://www.interreg.gr>, on the website of the Ministry of European Integration of Albania www.mie.gov.al and on the website of the EU Delegation to Albania, at http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/albania/index_en.htm.

3. Priorities and Measures

The present call for proposals is open to both Programme Priorities and to the six related Measures:

Programme Priority and Measures

PRIORITY	MEASURES
1. Enhancement of cross-border economic development	1.1 Promote entrepreneurship 1.2 Promote sustainable tourism 1.3 Enable people to people actions 1.4 Facilitate border accessibility through small -scale infrastructure
2. Promotion and sustainable development of the environment and of natural and cultural resources	2.1 Promote and protect the environmental resources of the area 2.2 Promote and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area

4. Programme Area

The eligible programme area is indicated in the table below:

Eligible NUTS III or equivalent regions

Country	Prefecture/District
GREECE	Prefecture of Ioannina
	Prefecture of Thesprotia
	Prefecture of Florina
	Prefecture of Kastoria
	Prefecture of Kerkira
ALBANIA	District of Gjirokaster
	District of Korçë
	District of Vlorë

Moreover, the following NUTS III region has been included in the eligible area of the Programme as **adjacent area** and therefore funding for operations in this area can be admitted up to 20% of the amount of the EU Contribution to the Programme.

Eligible adjacent areas

Country	Prefecture/District
GREECE	Prefecture of Grevena

The **adjacent areas** have been selected to maximise the impact of cross border cooperation programmes' achievements. According to IPA Regulation¹, these areas can receive up to 20% of the Programme EU contribution. This means in practice that the programme may report costs related to the activities incurred on the territory of these areas to the limit of 20% of the amount of the EU contribution.

However, this does not mean that a fixed share of 20% of the programme budget is reserved for partners from these areas. The cross border added value of participation of partners from these areas will be assessed on a project by project basis.

5. Budget available

The total budget available for the present call is **9.221.597 €** (including EU Contribution and National Co-Financing) and is allocated by Country and Priority, as follows:

¹ Article 97 of the IPA Regulation states that: "In duly justified cases, EU funding may finance expenditure incurred in implementing operations or parts of operations up to a limit of 20 % of the amount of the EU contribution to the cross-border programme in NUTS level 3 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas, adjacent to the eligible areas for that programme. In exceptional cases as agreed between the Commission and the participating countries, this flexibility may be extended to the NUTS level 2 regions or, in the absence of NUTS classification, equivalent areas in which the eligible areas are located "

Budget Available for Beneficiaries from Greece

PRIORITY AXIS:			
No	PRIORITY	INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATION (€)	
		EUROPEAN UNION CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL BUDGET
1	Enhancement of cross-border economic development	1.875.187	2.500.249
2	Promotion and development of the environmental and natural and cultural resources	1.875.187	2.500.249
TOTAL BUDGET		3.750.374	5.000.498

The EU Co-Financing rate is 75%

Budget Available for Beneficiaries from Albania

PRIORITY AXIS:			
No	PRIORITY	INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATION (€)	
		EUROPEAN UNION CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL BUDGET
1	Enhancement of cross-border economic development	1.793.967	2.110.549
2	Promotion and development of the environmental and natural and cultural resources	1.793.968	2.110.550
TOTAL BUDGET		3.587.935	4.221.099

The EU Co-Financing rate is 85%

6. Eligible Partnerships

Project proposals must include *at least* one partner from each country participating in the Programme (i.e. being established, registered or accredited in the respective country).

All projects shall be developed and managed according to the Lead Partner Principle. Partners from each country shall appoint a Lead Partner among them that shall assume responsibilities according to the Lead Partner principle, for the part of the project taking place in the respective country. One of these two Lead Partners participating in the project will be also nominated as the Overall Lead Partner, in order to represent the entire partnership towards the Managing Authority and to ensure the sound implementation of the entire project.

The Lead Partners have to be established, registered or accredited in the respective countries i.e. the organizations should be established by or accredited under an instrument governed by the internal law of the respective country for at least 12 months before the launching of this call for proposals.

(Following a project's approval, each Lead Partner will sign a Contract with the competent Contracting Authority, that is the Delegation of the European Union in Tirana for the Lead Partners in Albania and the Managing Authority for the Lead Partners in Greece. The Lead Partner nominated also as the Overall Lead Partner will also sign an Overall Contract with the Managing Authority.)

Partners shall cooperate in at least one of the following ways: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing.

The total number of partners must not exceed five (5) including the Lead Partners.

This call for proposals is only addressed to:

- a. national, regional or local **public authorities**;
- b. **bodies governed by public law**², 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 organizations**: non profit organizations founded according to applicable legal framework/law in the respective country can be eligible under the following conditions:
 - they do not have a commercial or industrial character or activities
 - they are non- profit³ and have a legal personality.
 - they operate for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals. If a private organization is participating through a Branch

² 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.

³ Profit is the making of gain in business activities for the benefit of the owners of the business (paying out dividends).

located at the eligible programme area, the branch shall operate at least for one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals.

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

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 provided in the Programme Manual.

A Project Proposal consists of:

1. the 'Application Form' (standard excel form provided)
2. the 'Partnership Declaration' (standard form provided, including the co-financing statements and the declarations of non-double financing)
3. 'The Declaration of not generating revenues' (standard form provided). In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using the "Guide to cost-benefit analysis of investment projects Published by DG Regional Policy in 2008" available at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/sf2000_en.htm)
4. The 'Specification of Budget Costs', completed by both Lead Partners, one for each country (standard form provided)
5. a. For bodies governed by public law (of article 6b above) official documents providing evidence that the requirements of article 6b of this call are met. In case that the nature of public body is not clearly delivered from the submitted documents, the JTS or MA may request additional documentation for clarification.
b. For private organisations (of article 6c above) :
 - Statutes including all modifications.
 - 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 three years preceding the presentation of the project proposal.

- Official Document providing proof for the non distribution of profits or declaration for the non distribution of profits if the first is not applicable.
 - Any official document certified by a public administration authority, providing that the organisation operates for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals.
6. A CD/DVD-ROM including the electronic version of the proposal as described at the Programme Manual.
 7. Infrastructure Projects must include the relevant accompanying documents (licenses, approval of feasibility study , building permits, preliminary designs, priced bill of quantities, technical specifications, environmental impact assessment etc., where applicable) proving the maturity of the proposed project. All necessary licenses may be provided at a later stage, but before the signing of the subsidy contract.
 8. The Lead Partner in Albania must submit the 'Declaration by the Lead Partner in Albania (standard form provided).
 9. Lead Partners in Albania must submit :
 - 9a. The 'Legal Entity Form' (standard form provided)
 - 9b. The 'Financial Identification Form' (standard form provided)
 - 9c. The Activity Break-Up Table (standard form provided)

Partners from Albania may refer to the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC External Actions (PRAG) for further guidance on filling the above documents (8 and 9).

The hard copy of the project proposal must be submitted in **one original and two copies**.

The envelope must bear the following indications:

1st Call for Proposals of the "Greece-Albania IPA Cross-Border Programme" 2007-2013
Measure:.....
Project Acronym:
Overall Lead Partner:(Name).....
....(Address).....
NOT TO BE OPENED BEFORE THE OPENING SESSION

The Project Proposal must be submitted to the Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat **by post, private courier service or hand-delivery** at the following address:

"Greece – Albania" IPA Cross-Border Programme 2007-2013

Joint Technical Secretariat

65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea 57001, Thessaloniki, Greece

To be recognised as submitted within the fixed deadline, a proposal must be **submitted** on the **8/3/2011 at the latest**. Proposals sent after this date will not be considered as eligible. A signed and dated certificate of receipt will be handed to the deliverer.

Attention: If the signed Project Proposal is submitted by registered mail or private courier service, only the stamp of indicating the postal date proves that the Project Proposal has been sent within the above deadline.

If the signed Project Proposal is submitted in person, only the Managing Authority's register number is proof of timely submission.

8. Project size

Projects shall have total eligible costs ranging from a minimum of **150.000 €** up to a maximum of **600.000 €**. The minimum budget per project Partner cannot be lower than 30.000,00 €.

9. Eligibility of expenditure

The starting date for the eligibility of expenditure of Partners from Greece is the date of approval of the "Greece-Albania IPA Cross-Border Programme" (5/9/2008), while for partners from Albania, the starting date for the eligibility of expenditure is the date of signature the Contract between the Delegation of the European Union (following the project's approval by the competent Committee) to Albania and the Lead Partner in Albania.

The final date of eligibility of expenditure may not exceed 31/12/2016 under no circumstances.

Concerning Partners from Albania the costs must be incurred during the implementation period of the action as specified in Article 2 of the Special Conditions to the Grant contract with the exception of costs relating to final reports, expenditure verification and evaluation of the action, whatever the time of actual disbursement by the Lead Partner and/or its partners. The duration of the contract might be different than that of the Lead Partner in Greece. The implementation period can anyhow not be longer than 31/12/2013.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described at the Programme Manual.

10. Duration

Projects should be concluded within a maximum period of eighteen (18) months after the signing of the Contract between the Managing Authority and the Overall Lead Partner. Projects that have started their implementation before the signing of the contract, and in

any case after 5/9/2008(date of approval of the Programme), should not have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposals.

11. Additional information

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure and project development, please contact the Managing Authority, tel: 0030-2310469600, e-mail: interreg@mou.gr.

All relevant information and documents shall be available on the Programme website at <http://www.interreg.gr>, on the site of the Ministry of European Integration of Albania www.mie.gov.al and on the site of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania, at http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/albania/index_en.htm.

Information Sessions regarding this call shall take place in both countries. The date and time of these events will be concurrently announced on the Programme's website at <http://www.interreg.gr> and on the site of the Ministry European Integration of Albania www.mie.gov.al.

Potential applicants may pose questions in written to the Managing Authority, no later than twenty-one (21) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals. The answers shall be agreed by both the contracting authorities and shall be published at the above sites. Answers shall be published no later than eleven (11) days before the deadline for the submission of proposals.

Potential applicants are invited to regularly consult the above sites.

**THE ALTERNATE MINISTER OF ECONOMY,
COMPETITIVENESS AND SHIPPING**

SOKRATIS XINIDIS

Annexes:

- 1.Applicant's Package (all standard forms provided)
- 2.Programme Manual



ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ

ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ Γ. ΣΑΜΑΡΑΣ
ΠΕ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΛΟΓΟΣ/Β'