

**9<sup>th</sup> Regional CBC Consultative Forum**  
**12 May 2023,**  
**Hotel Izgrev, Struga,**  
**North Macedonia**

**STATE AGENCY FOR STRATEGIC  
PROGRAMMING AND AID  
COORDINATION  
ALBANIA**



# The IPA 2014-2020 CBC programmes

- ❖ **IPA II CBC Programme Albania-Kosovo\***
- ❖ IPA II CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania
- ❖ IPA II CBC Programme North Macedonia-Albania
- ❖ Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro
- ❖ Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece-Albania
- ❖ Interreg Programme Mediterranean
- ❖ Interreg Programme Balkan-Med
- ❖ Interreg Programme Adriatic-Ionian

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

# 2014-2020 AL-KS: 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play

### ❖ ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ 2 strategic projects (out of a CfP) with high impact and large investment components
- ✓ Close cooperation among programme structures

### ❖ MAIN CHALLENGES

- Low capacities of the municipalities in the eligible area in project application, implementation and reporting
- VAT reimbursement for Albanian partners
- Lack of feasibility studies available to Albanian Municipalities in the eligible area

# 2014-2020 AL-KS: 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play

### ❖ ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ 4 diverse projects with high impact
- ✓ Projects with significant technology/ecological components
- ✓ Revitalization of cultural/historic sites

### ❖ MAIN CHALLENGES

- Low capacities of the municipalities in the eligible area to apply PRAG rules in procurement
- Delays in obtaining the first pre-payment

# Examples of good CBC practice

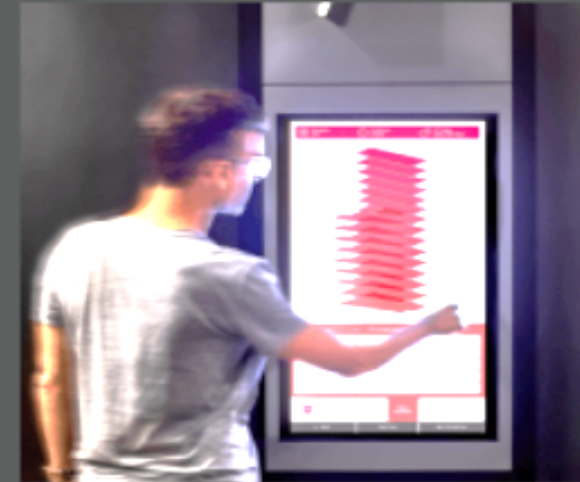


A BRIDGE TO SMART TOURISM  
FROM LEZHA TO GJAKOVA

- ❖ **Bridging Tourism through Cultural Heritage and Smart Solutions in Lezha and Gjakova/Đakovica**
- ❖ *Priority:* Encouraging tourism and promoting natural and cultural heritage
- ❖ *Overall objective:* To accelerate tourism development of Lezha and Gjakova regions through increased diversity and quality of touristic offer by unveiling cultural and historical wealth resulting in increased attractiveness of the CB region and growing number of tourists.
- ❖ *Duration:* 30 months
- ❖ *Total budget:* EUR 453,245; *Grant amount:* EUR 385,258

# Examples of good CBC practice

**Implement a technological model - the first time its kind in Albania and Kosovo aiming to deliver an interactive museum experience**



**MODERNIZE THE SOFT  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF  
TWO MUSEUMS  
THROUGH DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGY.**

technological model including self-guided technologies and implementation of multi-lingual audio guides as hardware appliances that will allow tourists to establish a personal interaction with the exposed artworks.

**BUILT AN  
ECONOMIC MODEL  
FOR BOTH AREAS.**

ensuring self-sustainability for both Museums.

**TWO DIGITAL  
DISPLAYS/SCREENS  
WILL BE PLACED  
IN EACH OF THE  
MUSEUMS.**

aiming to double tourist' experience - being in a single site enjoying two museums - a virtual visit to the other museum producing a superior visitor experience and lasting effect.

# Examples of good CBC practice

- ❖ This is an example of good CBC practice because:
  - ✓ Both municipalities will strengthen touristic potentials of the cross-border region through improving and diversifying the touristic offer, while creating a joint product for the two regions.
  - ✓ Technology application will allow visitors to enjoy both sites at the same time.
  - ✓ Similarity in nature of sites will allow exchange of crafts, stimulating businesses in both regions.

# Examples of good CBC practice





# Technical Assistance

## ❖ MAIN CHALLENGES

- Staff fluctuation
- The Covid-19 pandemic situation affected the implementation of all the foreseen activities

## ❖ MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ The support to the beneficiaries was guaranteed during the whole TAGC duration
- ✓ Tailor made trainings and workshops for beneficiaries based on their specific needs and requests
- ✓ Support on the preparation and launching of the 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposals

## ❖ MAIN CONCERN!

- ❑ The gap between the end of the existing TAGC and the new one of the IPA III programme
- ❑ The current TAGC ends on 31 July 2023

# Topics for discussion for IPA III

## ❖ MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ VAT exemptions for public bodies that will implement projects under IPA III; (Albania)
- ✓ Special fund dedicated to pre-financing; co-financing and reimbursement of VAT and customs duties for EU funded and other donors projects; (Albania)

## ❖ MAIN CONCERN!

- ❑ Low capacities of public bodies to implement EU funded projects, despite the support provided by the programme structures.