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INFORMATION

project LASPEH (*Low Adriatic Species and Habitat*), funded under the INTERREG IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014/2020 Programme, will be held on 16 November in Berat.

The Management Consortium of Regional Natural Park “Coastal Dunes from Torre Canne to Torre San Leonardo” is the lead beneficiary of this project in cooperation with partners from Albania (National Agency of Protected Areas), Montenegro (Public Enterprise of National Parks of Montenegro) and three Italian partners (Management Body of the Regional Natural Reserves of the Eastern Coast of Taranto, Municipality of Ugento and Municipality of Guardiaregia).

In Albania this project will be implemented in the area of Mali Tomor, Dardhë and Kapinov. By this Project we will have a conservation plan and concrete actions for a better protection of Western Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus*, part of Red List species in Albania,, that grows in this area.

Through this project we will do concrete actions such as afforestation of these territories improving the habitats of *Tetrao urogallus*. Although, this area is the natural "home" of this species, the number of individuals for last 20 years has been reduced. After placement of the hunting moratorium, the presence of this species has grown. The project will bring an increase of tourists' interest for protected areas and community raising awareness as well as the positive impact of the protected areas, in the surrounding local communities. This will be done through education campaigns with school students and community of the area.

In the frame of this project we will revitalize the existing paths, through which we go to the place, where it is located mostly this specie and build a simple view point structure for tourists, who will watch at these species and the surrounding landscape.

LASPEH project, financed under Priority Axis 3 (*Environment protection, risk management and low carbon strategy*) of the Programme, aims to promote and support the biodiversity safeguard reducing the contraction of biological diversities. In other words, LASPEH faces the loss of biodiversity by defining a common strategy to preserve the natural heritage and the landscape in the Low Adriatic basin.

LASPEH will implement several activities such as a transnational joint strategy for the better management of priority species in Natura 2000 sites, conservation plans on three priority species and their pilot areas to be adopted at local (regional) level, conservation pilot actions to improve the level of protection of target species/habitats and boost long lasting environmental conservation, and finally awareness campaign on stakeholders (targeted workshops addressed to schools and families on environment preservation, visits to natural sites for children, schools and families to boost sustainable tourism).

Contacts:

Project manager, Albania Holta Copani
Holta.Copani@akzm.gov.al

LASPEH Project Communication Officer, Albania
Deniz Xhoga – Deniz.Xhoga@akzm.gov.al



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INTERREG IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014/2020 Programme is a trilateral cross-border cooperation Programme co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) in the programming period 2014-2020. The Programme is designed in the framework of the European strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth (Europe 2020). It aims to assist participating countries in meeting their national 2020 targets, fostering cross-border cooperation across the Mediterranean, in view of pre-accession of Albania and Montenegro to the European Union. The total Programme budget is around EUR 93 million co-financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA II) at a rate of 85, while there is a 15% national co-financing for Italian partner (located in Puglia and Molise).

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