

# Interreg - IPA CBC

Italy - Albania - Montenegro



EUROPEAN UNION

**INTERFIDE-CRT**



BASHKIA  
TIRANË



EU RELATIONS  
GEIE

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## INTERFIDE - CRT PROJECT

Newsletter #2

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Dear Reader,

welcome to the second Newsletter of the **INTERFIDE-CRT** project. With this tool we keep you informed about the activities, events and progress of the initiative. In this edition we will present one of the major INTERFIDE activities: the implementation of two transnational Pilot Tours!

Thanks to the involvement of the experts and sectoral stakeholders, the InterFide-CRT project will measure and evaluate the touristic potential of the itinerary and identify possible improvements to enhance its touristic appeal and visibility, especially in low seasons. This will be the basis for scaling up and transfer pilot results to larger EU and worldwide touristic schemes such as EPA Cultural Routes and UNWTO panels on Religious and Cultural Tourism.

**INTERFIDE-CRT** is an acronym of *Fostering Interfaith Dialogue and Enhancing Cross-border Religious Tourism*.

This is one of the most ambitious projects to increase the attractiveness of natural and cultural heritage to improve smart and sustainable economic development.

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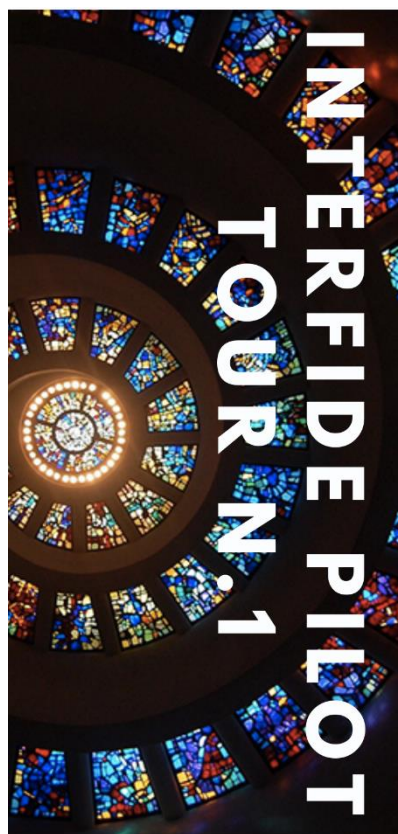
## **INTERFIDE -CRT**

***allows an intercultural and interreligious exchange across territories of Italy, Albania and Montenegro***

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**THE INTERFIDE-CRT  
PROJECT PRESENTS THE  
PILOT TOUR #1**

**FROM 21 TO 27 MAY 2022**



Contacts:  
<https://interfidecrt.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>



This project is co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)

- 21 MAY**  
 Arrival in Bari, dinner and overnight stay
- MAY 22**  
 08.45 am Visit of the city of Bari  
 1.30 pm Lunch in Bari  
 4.00 pm Return to Canosa, at the hotel  
 5.00 pm Visit to the Bishops' Museum  
 7.00 pm Visit of Bohemond's Tomb  
 9.00 pm Dinner
- 23 MAY**  
 8.30 am Departure for Castelpetroso (IS)  
 11:00 am Visit to the Basilica of Castelpetroso (IS)  
 13:00 Lunch  
 2.30 pm Visit to the Cathedral of Boiano  
 16:00 Visit to the historic center of Sepino  
 5.00 pm Visit to the archaeological site of Altilia (Sepino)  
 6.30 pm Departure for Canosa and dinner
- MAY 24th**  
 09.00 Visit to the Cathedral of Canosa  
 10.30 am Departure for the city of Trani  
 visit to the cathedral and the city  
 1.30 pm Lunch  
 5.00 pm Flight to Tirana  
 8.30 pm Dinner and night tour of the city
- 25 MAY**  
 09.00 Departure in the direction of Lezha,  
 visit to the medieval church and the Castle of Scutari  
 1.00 pm Lunch  
 2.30 pm Departure for Podgorica 3 city tour  
 20.00 Dinner  
 Overnight in Podgorica
- MAY 26**  
 Visit the medieval capital of Montenegro  
 Visit of the monasteries around Podgorica  
 Visit MTE Bijelopolje  
 Lunch  
 Return to Tirana with arrival around 7.00 pm  
 Dinner  
 Overnight
- MAY 27**  
 Free guided tour of the city of Tirana  
 12.30 Lunch  
 3.50 pm Flight to Bari

## OVERVIEW

From 21 to 27 May 2022, the InterFide project organised the **FIRST PILOT TOUR** which crossed **Italy** (stops in Bari, Canosa and Trani in Apulia; Castelpetroso, Bojano and Sepino in Molise), **Albania** (stops in Tirana, Lezha and Shkodra) and **Montenegro** (stops in Podgorica and Bijelo Polje).

The InterFide travellers visited places of worship and pilgrimage, archaeological sites, castles, museums and monuments that were selected by project partners as sites that have an intrinsic *potential* for developing interfaith tourism.

Now an emerging market niche, if well developed, interfaith tourism can play a crucial part in increasing the flow of new money in the area, in helping to create jobs and to encourage entrepreneurship, especially among younger generations, and in fostering a more sustainable tourism.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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## HOW DID THIS TAKE PLACE?

Travelers had the opportunity to visit:

**MAY 22**  
**APULIA: BARI AND CANOSA**

**The Orthodox Church of San Nicola** (Sanctuary of San Nicola) located in the historic center (Bari Vecchia, Apulia), a church that every year attracts Catholic pilgrims and Orthodox Christians;

**Mausoleum of Prince Bohemund** in Canosa, an important testimony of the intercultural exchange between Islamic and Christian art.



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**MAY 23**

**MOLISE: CASTELPETROSO, BOJANO AND SEPINO**

**Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrow** (Basilica minore dell'Addolorata) in Castelpetroso, province of Isernia.



With its Gothic Revival style, it is one of the most important places of worship in Molise.

**San Bartholomeo Cathedral** in Bojano, province of Isernia, a very ancient church whose first restoration dates back to the XI century.

**Altilia Archaeological Site** at Saepinum, province of Campobasso. Altilia was an important Roman city, dating back to 290 BC.



**MAY 24**  
**APULIA: TRANI AND CANOSA**

**Trani** had a significant Jewish population for many years, at one point having four synagogues. Today, it hosts the oldest Jewish temple in Europe, the Scolanova Synagogue.



**MAY 25**  
**ALBANIA: SHKODER AND LEZHA**

After a night in Tirana, European Youth Capital 2022, the InterFide travelers visited the beautiful **Albanian cities of Shkoder and Lezha.**





**MAY 26**  
**MONTENEGRO: PODGORICA**

**The Monastery of Saint Peter** is the second most important religious landmark in Montenegro.

**St. George's Orthodox Church**, which, built between the 9th and the 11th century, is the oldest preserved building in the city.

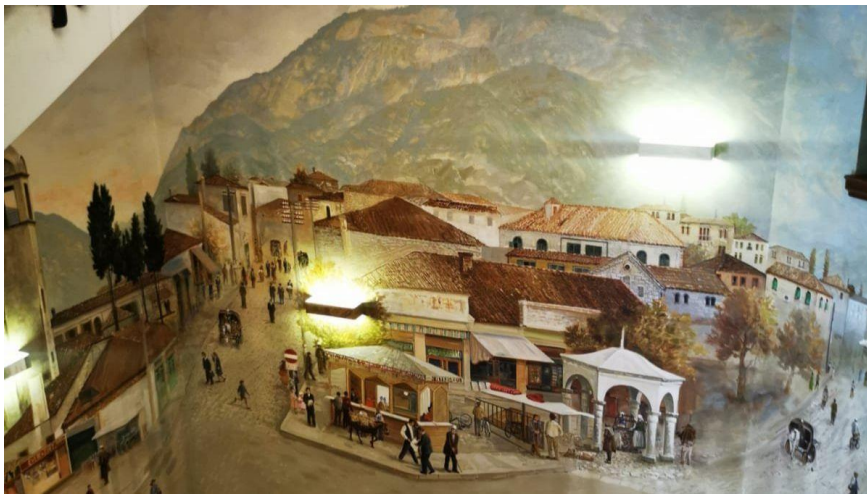
**The Resurrection of Christ Cathedral** (Saborni Hram Hristovog Vaskrsenja), one of the most visited churches by Orthodox pilgrims.

**The Dajbabe Monastery**, a Serb Orthodox Christian monastery that was built on 1897 in a underground cave.



**MAY 27**  
**ALBANIA: TIRANA**

The InterFide first pilot tour ended with a visit of the **Tirana Municipality**.



# THE INTERFIDE-CRT PROJECT PRESENT THE PILOT TOUR #2

FROM 3 TO 9 OCTOBER 2022



**interreg - IPA CBC**  
Italy - Albania - Montenegro  
**INTERFIDE-CRT**

## INTERFIDE PILOT TOUR N. 2 PROGRAMME

**03/10** DEPARTURE from Bari Airport  
Arrival at Tirana, transfer to Shkoder  
Dinner & overnight stay

**04/10** DEPARTURE from Shkoder to Podgoriza  
Arrival in Poçgorica and visit of Cathedral Temple  
Transfer to Bijelo Polje, dinner & overnight stay

**05/10** VISIT of St. Peter Church, St. Nicholas Monastery in Podvrih and Djurdjevi Stupovi Monastery in Berane  
Transfer to Shkoder and visit of Hani i Hotit Basilica  
TRANSFER to Tirana, dinner and overnight stay

**06/10** VISIT of Ethem Bej Mosque  
Flight to Bari  
Transfer to Monopoli and dinner  
TRANSFER to Polignano a Mare & overnight stay

**07/10** VISIT of Cathedral of Purgatory & St. Steven Chapel  
Transfer to Alberobello, visit of Trullo Church  
Transfer to Monopoli, visit of St. Mary of Madia Church  
Transfer to Canosa, dinner & overnight stay

**08/10** TRANSFER to Molise. Visit of St. Mary of the Wayside Basilica in Matrice & St. Mary in Faioli Abbey in Montegano  
Transfer to Campobasso and lunch  
Transfer to Cercemaggiore, visit of St. Mary of Freedom Monastery and interreligious meeting with the "Water Route"  
TRANSFER to Canosa, dinner and overnight stay

**09/10** TRANSFER to Trani. Visit of St. Mary of the Assumption Basilica Cathedral and Scalanova Synagogue  
Zoom meeting with the local Chief Rabbi  
Flight to Tirana - END OF TOUR

**VIZart**   **EU RELATIONS**       

## OVERVIEW

The **Interfide-CRT Pilot Tour # 2** took place between 3 and 9 October 2022. The tour was organised as a follow-up of the previous edition implemented last May. This time the InterFide travelers will visit: Tirana, Podgorica, Bjelo Polje, Podvrh, Berane, Skoder, Polignano a Mare, Alberobello, Monopoli, Canosa, Campobasso, Matrice, Montagano, Cercemaggiore and Trani. The Tour will include visits to places of worship and ecumenic meetings with religious leaders as well as moments of conviviality and sharing.

The results of the Two pilot Tours will be presented to the international stakeholders in Brussels next 12 October. To know more continue following us!

## OCTOBER 4 MONTENEGRO: PODGORICA

**Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ**, one of the cathedrals of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Its construction began in 1993 to a design by Predrag Ristić and its consecration took place 20 years later, on the anniversary of the Edict on Freedom of Religion.





**OCTOBER 5**  
**MONTENEGRO: BERANE**

**The church of St. Peter and Paul**, a little gem in Bijelo Polje in Montenegro.  
**The Monastery of St. Nicholas** in Podvrh in Bijelo Polje is an example of Byzantine art in its final years.



## OCTOBER 6 ALBANIA: TIRANA

**The Ethem Bey Mosque, Tirana.** The Mosque is an example of Islamic architecture, located in the famous Scanderbeg Square in Tirana.

**The Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,** in Albanian 'Katedralja Ngjallja e Krishtit', is a place of worship of the Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

The **Catholic Cathedral of St Paul** belonging to the Archdiocese of Tirana-Durres.

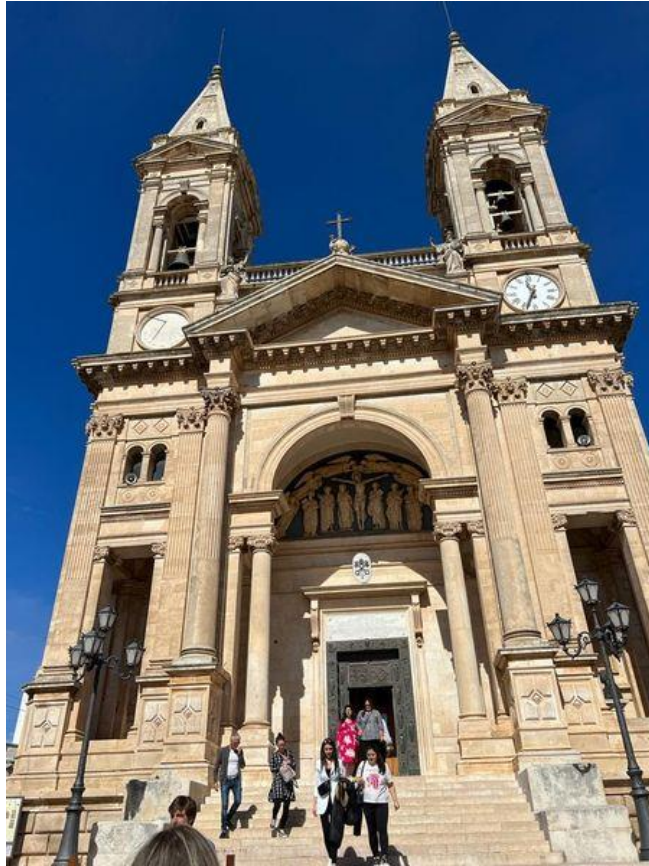




**OCTOBER 7**  
**APULIA: CANOSA, ALBEROBELLO AND MONOPOLI**

**Cathedral of Purgatory and Steven Chapel** and the splendid **Cathedral of San Sabino**.

**Alberobello**, a locality in Apulia that is part of the Itria Valley and the Murgia dei Trulli, declared UNESCO World Heritage in 1996.  
**St. Mary of Madia Church**, Monopoli.

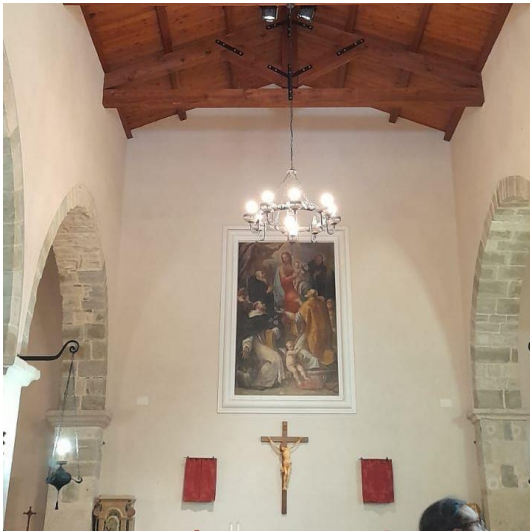


**OCTOBER 8**  
**MOLISE: MATRICE AND MONTAGANO,**

**St. Mary of the Wayside Basilica** in Matrice. The Basilica is located outside the village and is thought to be among the oldest and best-preserved in the region.

**St. Mary** in Faioli Abbey in Montagano. In the area of the Samnite center of Fagifulae, which later became a Roman municipality, a Benedictine community arose in medieval times.


**St. Mary of Freedom Monastery** and interreligious meeting with the "Water Route".



**OCTOBER 9**  
**TRANI**

**St. Mary of the Assumption**, the main Catholic place of worship in the city of Trani, Apulia. The most significant examples of Apulian Romanesque architecture and was built using Trani stone, a typical building material of the area. Its construction dates back to the time of the Norman domination **Scolanova Synagogue**, Trani. A sample of Apulian Romanesque architecture. it bears witness to the city's ancient Jewish quarter.



For any additional information contact us and we hope to see you in this wonderful intercultural experience to discover the interreligious beauties in 

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For more information visit our Facebook page and website



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#### DISCLAIMER.

The content of this Newsletter is compiled with care and with the best of our efforts, but it is purely informational, we do not accept responsibility or liability for mistakes and unintended inaccuracies.

This project has received funding from the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) as managed by the Interreg IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme.

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