

**Interreg - IPA CBC**  
Italy - Albania - Montenegro



**CIRCE**

# **CIRCE**

Common Initiatives to pRomote CinEma  
across Italy- Albania - Montenegro

## **Final Storytelling**

Report on the project results

By Apulia Film Commission Foundation

Deliverable C.2.3

03.2021



PROJECT PARTNERS



FILM CENTRE  
OF MONTENEGRO



ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



Ministry of Culture of Montenegro



MINISTRI  
PER I BENI  
E LE ATTIVITÀ  
CULTURALI



# Index



<b>1.INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.CIRCE WEB SERIES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.NETWORK OF FILM FESTIVALS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4.SUPPORT TO FILM FESTIVALS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5.CINEPORT HUBS IN ALBANIA</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.ART MOVIE CIRCUIT IN ME</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7.MOLISE CINELAB</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8.AFC TRAINING WEEK</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>9.TAX CREDIT PAPER</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>11.PRODUCTION &amp; LOCATION GUIDES</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>12.WHO'S WHO</b>	<b>20</b>



# 1. Introduction

The aim of the present document (Deliverable C.2.3) is to present the main initiatives, achievements and results of CIRCE project.

## ABOUT CIRCE

CIRCE “*Common Initiatives to pRomote CinEma across Italy-Albania-Montenegro*” is funded by the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme under Priority Axis 2. The project aims to re-launch the production system of Albania, Montenegro, Puglia and Molise, investing in cultural and creative industries as key strategic resources to support the economic growth of the involved areas.

Project partners are the **Apulia Film Commission Foundation (AFC)**, lead partner, the **Albanian National Centre of Cinematography (ANCC)**, the **Film Centre of Montenegro (FCM)** and the **Molise Region (MR)**. Associated partners are: the **Ministry of Culture of Montenegro**, the **Ministry of Culture Republic of Albania** and the **Ministry of Culture of Italy**.

## OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The overall objective is improving the conditions for cultural and creative industries of the audio-visual sector in order to give value to the cultural heritage through cross-border initiatives, establishing an important connection among participating regions and key actors of new creative productions.

CIRCE implemented a comprehensive program of cross-border initiatives in the audio-visual sector setting up networks at different levels that will involve the main stakeholders. Among the activities:

- The joint production of a nine-episodes web series on a cross-border platform;
- The creation of a Network of Film Festivals in the cross-border area;
- Investments to promote distribution in Albania and Montenegro;
- The transfer of good successful practices (tax credit);
- Updating activities for operators of the audio-visual sector.

**Project duration:** 01.04.2018 – 31.03.2021

**Total budget:** € 831.540,00

**Project website:** <https://circe.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>

**Project Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/CIRCEproject/>

**You Tube Channel:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJJcbtr\\_fXIemF-TM4EhlAg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJJcbtr_fXIemF-TM4EhlAg)

**Final Storytelling Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrPU9XXDWhQ&t=336s>



## 2. CIRCE Web Series

Apulia Film Commission Foundation (AFC) produced an anthological web series of **nine episodes** on the subject of "journey" in order to promote the natural, cultural, artistic and architectural heritage of the involved territories.

Particularly, the aim of the web series is to strengthen the visibility and recognisability of Albania, Montenegro, Molise region and Puglia region through audiovisual tools, assigning this task to **young under-35 directors** coming from the involved territories and making them protagonists of their own lands' cultural development.

The directors and executive productions were identified through a **public call**, launched and spread with the support of project partners, and the winners were selected by a first-class **international evaluation commission**.

Before the contracting phase, a **brainstorming meeting** was held on 31.07.2019 at the premises of Apulia Film Commission to give directors and executive producers an overview of the steps to take and arrange one-to-one meetings with the Showrunner, and the Delegate Producers.





The nine episodes composing the Web Series, their respective directors and executive productions are:

- THE SWEET DEALER by Jonid Jorgji (EJF Production)
- KLOD by Giuseppe Marco Albano (Mediterraneo Cinematografica srl)
- OMONIMIA by Mentor Selmani (I's Continuum)
- THE GOOD MAN by Ergys Meta (Erafilm)
- BROKEN BRIDGES by Benart Laze (SKA\_NDAL)
- BLUE REQUIEM by Danilo Marunović (Cezam Production)
- RAINBOW by Aleksandar Vujović (Boka F)
- COSTA MORENA by Livio Marsico (Associazione Muud)
- RITORNO A CASA by Antonio De Gregorio & Mattia Marano (Incas srl)

CIRCE web series is available on the [web platform](#) created by Apulia Film Commission. [Click here](#) to watch the web series **showreel**.

In the next paragraphs, there is a detailed insight of each episode produced.





# THE SWEET DEALER



Title: The Sweet dealer

Director: Jonid Jorgj (Albania)

Executive production: EJF Production

Duration: 11'

Location of filming: Dajt, Shën Gjergj - Tirana

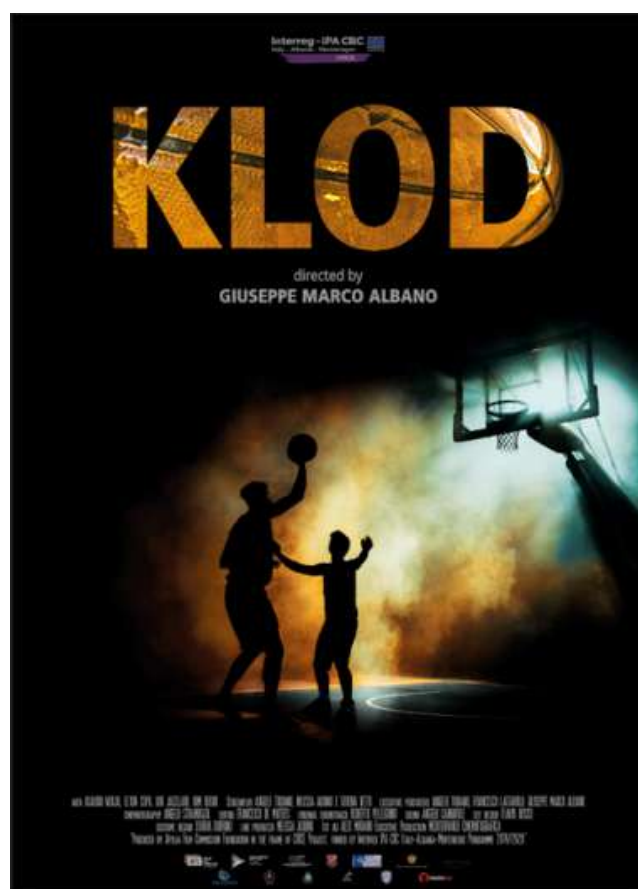
Synopsis: Two tourists had an accident while riding bicycles off roads in Albania. Not being able to call the ambulance, they get rescue by a local driver only to find themselves involved in some kind of trafficking. Now all they want to do is to get out of the car.

Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)

# KLOD



Title: Klod

Director: Giuseppe Marco Albano (Puglia)

Executive production: Mediterraneo

Cinematografica srl

Duration: 15'

Location of filming: Brindisi (Puglia)

Synopsis: Klaudio is 13 and dreams of becoming a basketball player. On a summer evening like any other, the roar of a car breaks the silence of the countryside where he lives with his family: Albania is no longer a safe place.

Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)



# OMONIMIA



**Title:** Omonimia

**Director:** Mentor Selmani (Albania)

**Executive production:** I's Continuum

**Duration:** 11' 33"

**Location of filming:** Albania

**Synopsis:** An Italian cineaste, Massimo, arrives by ferry from across the Adriatic Sea to the Balkan nation of Albania. During the Second World War, Massimo's grandfather, Antonio, died in a mountain battlefield in this remote corner of Eastern Europe. Massimo takes a personal journey along the same path Antonio did, reflecting on the universal truths that bind us together.

**Trailer:** [click here](#)

**Interview 1:** [click here](#)

**Interview 2:** [click here](#)

# THE GOOD MAN



**Title:** The Good Man

**Director:** Ergys Meta (Albania)

**Executive production:** Erafilm

**Duration:** 14' 16"

**Location of filming:** Korçë, Dardhë (Albania)

**Synopsis:** A middle aged man is going in his hunting cabin in the middle of nowhere. After his wife loss, the only company is his hunting dog. The silence is disturbed by an escaped prisoner. The man is in dilemma: either to help or report the prisoner.

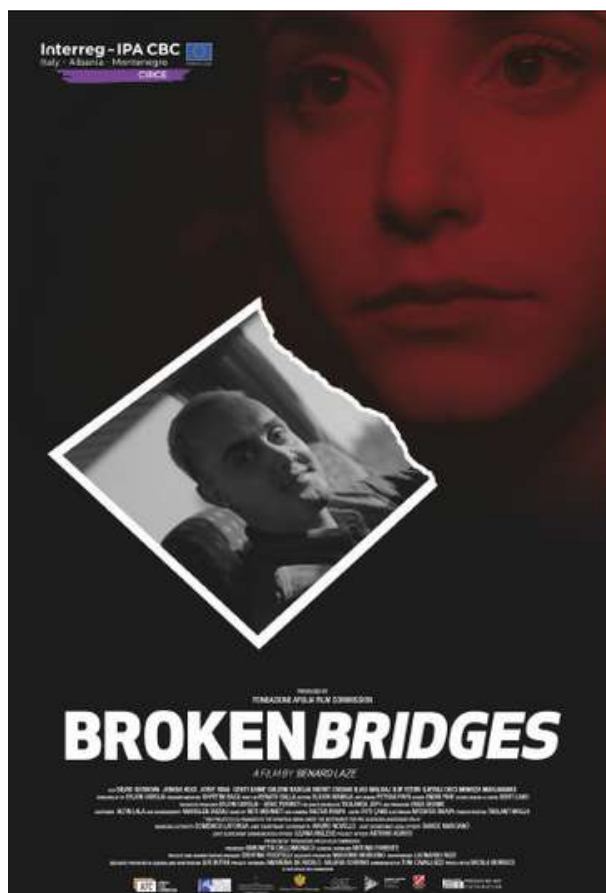
**Trailer:** [click here](#)

**Interview 1:** [click here](#)

**Interview 2:** [click here](#)



# **BROKEN BRIDGES**



Title: Broken Bridges

Director: Benart Laze (Albania)

Executive production: SKA\_NDAL

Duration: 12'

Location of filming: Tirana, Durres, Kavaje (Albania)

**Synopsis:** Marco comes back in Albania for finishing his photo documentation study for the university, but once arrived he loses his camera. Desperate, he steals a camera from the bus he is traveling. He has a chance to escape clean out of this, but he feels something for the girl he stole the camera from. So he brings it back to her but is he ready to tell her the truth?

Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)

# **BLUE REQUIEM**



Title: Blue Requiem

Director: Danilo Marunović (Montenegro)

Executive production: Cezam Production

Duration: 13'

Location of filming: Bijelo Polje, Virpazar, Bar, Boka Kotorska (Montenegro)

**Synopsis:** The depths of the Adriatic Sea hide the museum of human tragedies whose stories are being whispered to us by the ships sunk in three different epochs (antique era, the Middle Ages and the First World War). The ambitions, passions, love and desires of the tragic heroes blow strongly in the sails of the new conquests, and leave the magnificent artifacts along their last journey which, after several millennia, blows the minds and fire up the fantasy among exploring expedition.

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)



# RAINBOW



Title: Rainbow

Director: Aleksandar Vujović (Montenegro)

Executive production: Boka F

Duration: 16' 56"

Location of filming: Montenegro

Synopsis: Rainbow is a film that recounts, through the main character's memory, an event from his early childhood that determined his life's calling. He embarks on a journey with his father, as a boy of less than six years old, where he experiences a magical moment. Thought that moment he realizes his life vocation, which would direct him to the call of the artist, whom he later became.

Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)

# COSTA MORENA



Title: Costa Morena

Director: Livio Marsico (Puglia)

Executive production: Associazione Muud

Duration: 13' 50"

Location of filming: Brindisi, Lecce (Puglia)

Synopsis: Port of Brindisi (Italy). Ettore is a scruffy and lonely truck driver who loves his job. He gets off the ferry in his red truck and finds himself in a situation that will put him to the test.

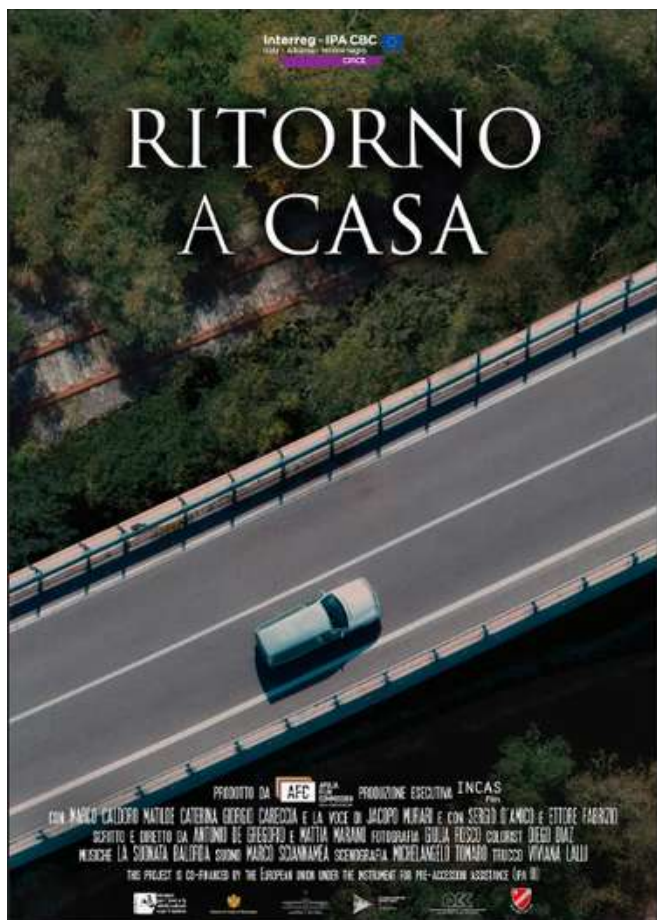
Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)



# RITORNO A CASA



Title: Ritorno a Casa (Homecoming)

Director: Antonio De Gregorio & Mattia Marano (Puglia)

Executive production: Incas srl

Duration: 17' 15"

Location of filming: Campobasso, Petracatella, Busso, Casacalenda (Molise) and Milan (Lombardia)

Synopsis: "Dead or alive...we'll deliver it to you in 24h!". That's the slogan of an unusual funeral agency based in Milan that plans funerals all over Italy at a bargain price. One of the employees, Marco, will have to take an old lady to a small village in Molise to bury her deceased husband. However, some inconveniences with locals will complicate things..

Trailer: [click here](#)

Interview 1: [click here](#)

Interview 2: [click here](#)



## AWARDS

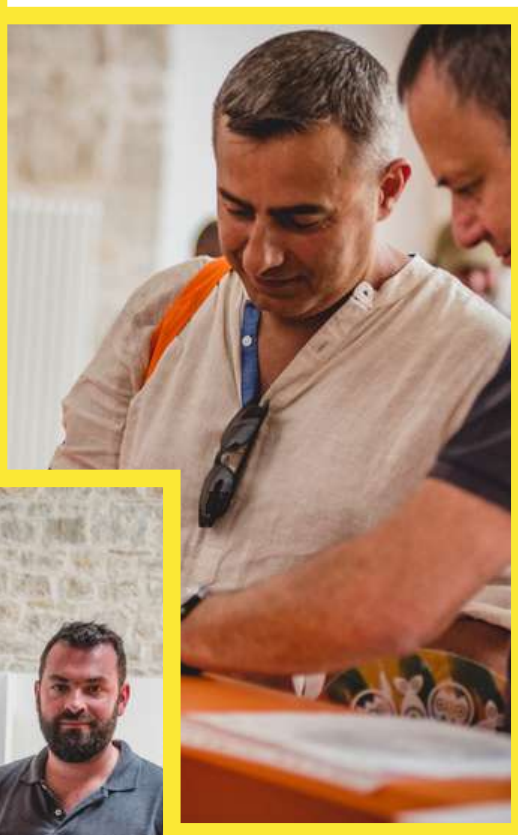
During the **distribution** phase, the single episodes of CIRCE Web Series have participated autonomously in several national and international film festivals, winning the following awards:

**THE SWEET DEALER:** Best Short Film (Bari international film festival); **KLOD:** Best Short Film (Iminese Film Festival); Best Actor and Best Dramatic Short Film (Iminese Film Festival); Student Award (Sulmona Film Festival); Best Short Film (Matera Sport Film Festival); Best Short Film (Visioni corte international short film festival); Best Director and Best Music (Visioni corte International Film Festival); Best Sound (Pegaso Film Festival); **OMONIMIA:** Honorable mention (Around International Film Festival of Barcelona); Best national film (Korça Short Film Festival); **THE GOOD MAN:** Best Director (Balkan Film Food Festival); **RAINBOW:** Yellow Umbrella Award - Best Film (Balkan Panorama Film Festival); Best Director Short Film and Honorable Mention: Short Film (Kosice International Monthly Film Festival); 2nd Best Short Film (Sprouting Seed International Short Film Festival); 3rd Best Cinematography (Sprouting Seed International Short Film Festival); Honorable Mention: Short Film (Prague International Monthly Film Festival); Best Cinematography and Best Child Actor (Screen Power Film Festival); Best No-Dialogue Film (International Symbolic Art Film Festival); Best Director Short Film (Onyko Films Awards); Best Inspirational Film (Super Indie Film Festival); Best Fiction Short Film (Aphrodite Film Awards); Best Short Film and Best Director (KZ Film Festival); Best Short Film (South-East European Film Festival); **COSTA MORENA:** Honorable mention (Social World Festival); Honorable mention (Reale Film Festival); Honorable mention (Puglia International Film Festival); **RITORNO A CASA:** Best Italian comedy (Night of comedy shorts); Honorable Mention (4th Wall Indie Film Festival di Padova); Best Comedy and Comic Short (Picena Short Film Festival); Best Actor (Calabria Movie Short Film Festival); Best Short (Sicily International Short League); Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor to Giorgio Careccia (VIFF - Varese International Film Festival); Monthly Winner (Film Award di Saint Vincent); Monthly Awards: Best Italian Short (Reale Film Festival); Best Couple Ensemble (Under The Stars International Film Festival).



# 3. Network of Film Festivals

Thanks to CIRCE project, on 9 August 2019, several directors of Film Festivals from Albania, Montenegro, Puglia and Molise gathered and met in Casacalenda (Molise) on the occasion of the 17th edition of MoliseCinema Film Festival, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a Network of Film Festivals of Albania, Montenegro, Molise and Puglia.





The aim of the Network is to promote cooperation in the audiovisual sector in the cross-border area and to improve the artistic quality of the respective festivals, thus enhancing the cultural offer in the area. The Network is intended as a space for the exchange of experience and best practices, as well as an instrument for coordinating activities and promoting the Network as a whole.

The 2nd Meeting of the Network of Film Festivals, was held on 5th November 2020 in online form. The meeting was hosted by the Festival del Cinema Europeo 2020 (from 31 October to 07 November 2020) and was the occasion to outline together the Network's Statute, made up of 8 articles regulating its functioning and structure.

The Statute was adopted and signed by the following 10 festivals, but any Film Festivals of Albania, Montenegro, Molise and Puglia can join at any time.





## 4. Support to Film Festivals

Thanks to CIRCE, project partners had the opportunity to support several Film Festivals taking place in their territories. In occasion of these festivals, several cross-border initiatives, panels, short movies and films from the CIRCE project area were organized and hosted. The aim was to enhance the mutual knowledge and promote the circulation of Italian, Albanian and Montenegrin movies. The involved festivals are detailed below.

Festival del Cinema Europeo

📍 Lecce (Puglia)

31 October - 7 November 2020



Podgorica Film Festival

📍 Podgorica (Montenegro)

03 December - 08 December 2019



Seanema Film Festival

📍 Ulcinj (Montenegro)

18 September - 22 September 2019



UnderhillFest

📍 Podgorica (Montenegro)

02 June - 09 June 2020



Dea Open Air International Film Festival

📍 Saranda & Gjirokastra (Albania)

11 October - 16 October 2020



International Human Rights Film Festival

📍 Tirana (Albania)

05 March - 14 March 2020



MoliseCinema Film Festival

📍 Casacalenda (Molise)

06 August - 11 August 2019





# 5. Cineport Hubs in Albania

Thanks to CIRCE project, the Albanian National Centre of Cinematography has equipped the **cinema halls** of the cities of Vlora and Gjirokastra - located in the South and South east of Albania respectively and closed for more than 20 years - with new digital technologies, making them two Cineport Hubs, working as new places of growth and cultural aggregation.

## VLORA



## GJIROKAOSTRA





## 6. Art Movie Circuit in ME

Thanks to CIRCE project, the Film Centre of Montenegro has purchased a **Mobile Cinema Package** in order to offer an itinerant art movie circuit all around Montenegro, promoting a quality cinema schedule and diversifying and expanding the quality of cultural offerings through an innovative and targeted management of cinema.

This investment aims to promote the distribution and diffusion of cinematographic works through free projections and was already tested as support for the preparation of several Film Festivals of Montenegro during CIRCE project lifetime.

The package involves a high-level quality projector, accompanied with mobile screen and sound system, which can be easily set up in many outdoor and indoor places, allowing audience to get the exquisite screening events, and also a van to move all around the country.





# 7. Molise Cinelab

Molise Region arranged an online cross-border Cinelab focused on new technologies and addressed to operators and enterprises working in the audiovisual industry matching the current requests of the market and promoting cooperation in the project area.

The initiative lasted 5 days from 18 to 25 March 2021 and took place online, involving about 30 participants from Albania, Montenegro, Molise and Puglia. The rich program gave the opportunity to participants to get updated on the latest technologies developed in the field of audiovisual that are requested and cherished in the international market, allowing them to have new tools to develop their creativity.

 	
<b>CIRCE Project Virtual CineLab</b> <i>(online training)</i> <b>18-19-22-23-24-25 March, 2021</b>	
<b>Thursday, 18 March 2021</b>	
3.45 pm – 4.00 pm	Introductory activities
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm	<b>Digital Post Production 1</b> Content: The language of the cinematographic editing, editing software, work space, start a project <u>Antonio De Gregorio, Director and Editor</u>
Asynchronous Learning (1 Hour)	<b>Digital Post Production 1</b> Content: Creation of a basic editing project starting from a film, analyzing a film editing
<b>Friday, 19 March 2021</b>	
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm	<b>Digital Post Production 2</b> Content: Music and graphic, import, timeline and organization of material <u>Antonio De Gregorio, Director and Editor</u>
Asynchronous Learning (1 Hour)	<b>Digital Post Production 2</b> Content: Create a timeline and a little video with graphics
<b>Monday, 22 March 2021</b>	
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm	<b>Digital Post Production 3</b> Content: Editing technique, Focus on Eijzenstejn, editing on more level, audio checking <u>Antonio De Gregorio, Director and Editor</u>
Asynchronous Learning (1 Hour)	<b>Digital Post Production 3</b> Content: Videoclip from a film
	





# 8. AFC Training Week

Apulia Film Commission organized a training week on tax credit, film commission functioning and legislation for favourable movie policy for Albanian and Montenegro staff and stakeholders. The training week took place from 24 to 30 March 2021 and consisted in 5 online meetings with experts in the Italian film industry, with the aim to develop and promote the local cinema expertise in the international panorama, transfer some best practices concerning policies and projects already implemented that can foster and develop conditions for the growth of cultural and creative industries.

About 25 participants took part to the meetings belonging to partners' stakeholders but also to all people interested in this topic.





# 9. Tax Credit Paper

Apulia Film Commission, with the support of partners and associates drafted a **Paper on Tax Credit**, explaining the state of play and the legislation in force in Italy, Montenegro and Albania in this sector, in order to propose solutions and to draw a road map to conform with the tax practice implemented in Italy favourable to creative industry.





# 10. Memorandum of Understanding

CIRCE project partners and associates signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) on a Joint Common Policy Enhancing Audiovisual Sector.

The aim of the MoU is to foster a cross-border and unitary vision in order to support the development and enhancement of the audiovisual sector in the frame of future funding opportunities at European Level.

The partners intend to cooperate using the technical and administrative capacities as well as good practices developed in the frame of the CIRCE project, fostering the joint development and implementation of initiatives and projects related to the audiovisual sector or any other sector of common interest.





# 11. Production & Location Guides

Albanian National Centre of Cinematography, Film Centre of Montenegro and Molise Region, thanks to a transfer of good practices from Apulia Film Commission, have implemented a database each reporting all audiovisual operators working in their respective country/region as well as the best locations for shooting.



**Albania Location and Production Guide:** click [here](#)



**Montenegro Location and Production Guide:** click [here](#)



**Molise Location and Production Guide:** click [here](#)





# 12. WHO'S WHO

All people who have participated in CIRCE project activities!



**Mauro Novello**  
JS Coordinator



**Antonio Agrosi**  
CIRCE Project Officer



**Ileana Inglese**  
JS Communication  
Officer



**Davide Marcianò**  
JS Legal Officer



**Aferdita Mezini**  
JS Operational  
Secretary



**Simonetta Dellomonaco**  
AFC President



**Antonio Parente**  
AFC Director



**Cristina Piscitelli**  
CIRCE Project  
Manager AFC



**Massimo Modugno**  
AFC Production Office



**Andreina De Nicolò**  
AFC EU Project  
Office



**Valeria Corvino**  
AFC EU Project  
Office



**Toni Cavalluzzi**  
AFC Communication  
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**Giovanni Antelmi**  
AFC Technical  
Assistance



**Andrea Santoro**  
AFC Technical  
Assistance



**Marta Colucci**  
AFC Technical  
Assistance



**Eduart Makri**  
ANCC Director



# WHO'S WHO

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CIRCE project activities!



**Arben Lami**  
ANCC Project Ground  
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**Marjela Zajmi**  
ANCC  
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**Kozeta Kullakshi**  
ANCC Communication  
Manager



**Arben Papadhopulli**  
ANCC  
Technical Assistance



**Sehad Čekić**  
FCM Director



**Marija Nikčević**  
FCM Communication  
Manager



**Tanja Radanović**  
FCM Financial  
Manager



**Jasmina Vojnovic**  
FCM Technical  
Assistance



**Nicola Pavone**  
Director of MR Tourism  
and Culture Department



**Gaspare Tocci**  
Director of  
MR CTE Office



**Mario Ialenti**  
MR CTE Office



**Ivana Mustillo**  
MR CTE Office



**Antonio Iarocci**  
MR CTE Office



**Miriam Panichella**  
CIRCE Project  
Manager MR



**Milena Rosa**  
MR Technical  
Assistance



**Graziella Bildesheim**  
Web Series Evaluation  
Commissioner



# WHO'S WHO

All people who have participated in  
CIRCE project activities!



**Saimir Bajo**

Web Series Evaluation  
Commissioner



**Aleksandra Cerović**

Web Series  
Evaluation Commissioner



**Ilir Butka**

Web Series Delegate  
Producer



**Aleksandar Vujović**

Director of Rainbow



**Antonio De Gregorio**

**Mattia Marano**

Directors of Ritorno a Casa



**Benart Laze**

Director of Broken  
Bridges



**Danilo Marunović**

Director of  
Blue Requiem



**Ergys Meta**

Director of  
The Good Man



**Giuseppe Marco Albano**

Director of Klod



**Jonid Jorgji**

Director of  
The Sweet Dealer



**Livio Marsico**

Director of  
Costa Morena



**Mentor Selmani**

Director of  
Omonimia



**Alberto La Monica**

Festival del Cinema  
Europeo



**Artan Maku**

AniFestRozafa



**Blagota Marunović**

Green Montenegro  
International Film Fest



**Drita Lolla**

Seanema Film  
Festival



# WHO'S WHO

All people who have participated in  
CIRCE project activities!



**Eno Milkani**  
Balkan Film Food  
Festival



**Federico Pommier**  
Molisecinema Film  
Festival



**Luciano Toriello**  
Mònde-Festa del  
Cinema sui Cammini



**Luigi Iovane**  
Imaginaria – Animated  
Film Festival



**Sara Radović**  
Podgorica Film Festival



**Vuk Perović**  
Underhillfest



[www.circe.italy-albania-montenegro.eu](http://www.circe.italy-albania-montenegro.eu)

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