

COMUNICATO STAMPA



# ITALIA - KOSOVO IL FUTURO NASCE DALLA NATURA

**FIRMATO IL CONTRATTO ESECUTIVO DEL PROGETTO NATURKOSOVO  
PER LA PROTEZIONE E VALORIZZAZIONE DELLA VIA DINARICA E LO  
SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE DELLE COMUNITA' DI PEJA, DECAN E JUNIK.**



AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO



Ambasciata d'Italia  
Pristina

PRESS RELEASE  
Kosovo, March 24th, 2022

**ITALY - KOSOVO. THE FUTURE COMES FROM NATURE.**

**The signature of the contract of the project NaturKosovo, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, starts a new season for the protection of Via Dinarica and the sustainable development of the communities of Peja, Decan and Junik.**

PRISTINA - Signature of the contract between the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in the Western Balkans and the Civil Society Organizations Volontari nel Mondo and Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni for the execution of the project NaturKosovo: the natural and cultural capital in Kosovo and the sustainable tourism development of the Via Dinarica.

The initiative, worth 1,8 million euro, will last three years, from 2022 to 2024. Its goal is to support the socio-economic development and stability of local communities. To achieve it, Italy will share some of its best practices in mountain rescue, public management of environmental resources and responsible tourism offer.

Partner in Kosovo for the implementation of the initiative is the Utalaya Foundation, the organization of the mountaineer Uta Ibrahim, the first Kosovar woman to have climbed Everest, nominated Sustainable Development Goals Champion by the United Nations, with a long-term commitment in the preservation of the environment, the defense of gender equality and the empowerment of the new generations. Italian partners of the initiative are also the Italian Alpine Club, the National Alpine and Speleological Rescue Corps and the Italian Association for Responsible Tourism.

"Institutional governance adequate to European standards, virtuous economic cycles for micro tourism businesses and creation of new jobs are results that may contribute concretely to a new sense of identity among local communities, preventing territorial conflicts and risk of emigration", stated the Italian Ambassador in Kosovo Antonello De Riu and the Representative of AICS Office Stefania Vizzaccaro.

In this perspective, the Italian Embassy in Pristina and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, in close collaboration with the authorities of Kosovo, will continue their commitment to the rapid development of the Via Dinarica as a path crossing the Western Balkan countries with the strength of its natural and cultural beauty, which is already fully European.

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